

THE  
Unfortunate Beauty:  
OR  
MEMOIRS  
OF  
Miss *Anna Maria Soames*,  
AND  
Several Others;

A NARRATIVE founded on known Facts,  
interspersed with several uncommon Characters,  
and exemplified in the many Instances that befel them during the Course  
of many Years Courtship and unsuccessful  
Love.

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— *Infano nemo in amore sapit.* Prop.

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L O N D O N:  
Printed for J. SCOTT, at the BLACK SWAN  
in PATERNOSTER-ROW, M.DCC.LVII



1743.68.26

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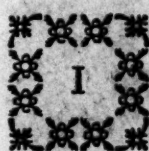


T H E  
Unfortunate Beauty.

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C H A P. I.

*In which the reader is introduced to  
the heroine of the story, her mother,  
and many other singular characters.*

 I KNOW it has been usual  
with those who write in  
general, to offer somewhat  
by way of apology for them-  
selves, endeavouring to insinuate their  
productions into the good graces of  
the reader. I shall, however, take the  
B liberty



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liberty of departing from this established custom, and, without farther preface commit myself to the mercy of the publick, with all my imperfections on my head. My grandfather was a man who had amassed a considerable fortune out of the revenues of some profitable places which he held under the government, and upon his death, left my father in very affluent circumstances. The effect that riches, so easily gotten, have upon the minds of men in general, is the inducing them to think that they are no more than their due. And give them a kind of contempt for all those who are not so fortunate as themselves.

This was, however, very far from being my father's case. He neither wanted sense or merit, but then he never had an opportunity of exposing them to publick view, because he had never found himself under a necessity



necessity of so doing. The exertion of great abilities is seldom to be met with in persons of wealth; being generally the result and effect either of want or misfortune.

My mother was pretty much in the same situation with my father, she brought him an immense fortune, insomuch that I was born heiress to a plentiful estate, and which the additional circumstance of my being an only child considerably increased. My education was in proportion to the greatness of my expectations, with which I became acquainted, as soon as I was capable of understanding any thing. I was not only indulged in every thing that I desired, but the people about me took a great deal of pains to suggest new wants and new desires, which were constantly productive of new gratifications. This, however, was attended with a consequence which might have been easily

foreseen, and accordingly prevented, by removing the occasion, I mean the making me proud and haughty. My relations were indeed very eager for my spending money, but instructed me but little in the art and disposition of giving. In short, they completely fitted me for a lady of quality, which they intended I should live like.

I was sent to a boarding-school to receive part of my education. A famous one was made choice of for the purpose, upon no other account than because the children of many people of fashion were put there, and that it was creditable to go to the best. My natural haughtiness still followed me, which was in a manner fed and kept up, by my parents giving particular directions concerning my diet, which was to be more delicate than the rest, though there were several ladies of much higher

higher rank than myself. Notwithstanding all this, I was to have my particular dish. My daughter (said my mother) is extremely tender, (for all heiresses are so) she would starve sooner than feed coarsely. This tenderness of constitution, was, however all imaginary, for, in reality, I was a strong hail girl; yet although my health did not require so particular an attention, nevertheless it was necessary in order to gratify the vanity of my parents. They were determined to distinguish me from the other boarders at all events, and therefore I must have a woman to wait on me, which, although contrary to the general custom of the house, was nevertheless permitted me, on account of the extraordinary sum that I paid for my board.

There is no place in which money has so much influence as in a boarding-school, the girls there are continually

usually in want of a number of little things, and therefore treat with great respect those from whom they hope to receive them, inasmuch that great court was paid to me, as soon as they understood that I was able to pay for it. And the mistress was so far from endeavouring to correct the natural haughtiness of my disposition, that she indulged and increased it, by the continual commendations which she bestowed on me. I was the most lovely child that ever was seen, had always the precedency given me to any of the rest, and surely this alone was enough to puff up a girl, who was already but too much prepossessed in favour of herself. My father and mother were quite charmed with the accounts which were transmitted to them of me, and this made them increase the number of their presents, which only contributed to spoil me the more. I was now in the fourteenth year of



of my age; I had never received any instruction, or been ever crossed in my desires, when an incident befell me that was productive of both.

My mistress used often to make me dine in the public dining-room, that the rest of my schoolfellows might be eye-witnesses of the magnificence of my entertainment. I used frequently to invite my favourites to come and eat with me, whilst the rest were spectators at a distance. This was in pursuance of my mistress's directions, which, however, I felt great reluctance in complying with, and this reluctance proceeded as I apprehend from an obstinacy which had taken such deep root in my heart, that I felt an unwillingness to put myself under the least controul or restraint. Miss Graham, a young lady of family, but who was as ridiculously vain on that account, as I was proud of my wealth, had



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never condescended to pay me a visit in my apartment, but one day she went farther, by taking the place in the school-room, in which as I had constantly sat ever since my first coming, so I had considered it as my own. I was just going to take another, when the mistress, piqued at the little respect that had been shewed me, desired Miss Graham to give me back my place. The dispute between them was long and sharp. Miss Graham exaggerated greatly the quality of her relations, and did not forbear making very severe reflections on mine. During this altercation, I kept my eyes constantly fixed on the ground, and indeed felt so great an embarrassment, that I knew not what to do. I perceived within myself the emotions of shame and resentment. It was a treatment, which as I had been altogether unused to, so I did not very well understand, and all that I can recollect to have been the effect

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fect of it, was the producing several ideas, which contributed not a little to the mortifying my pride. One of the senior scholars, who had more sense and good-nature than the rest, came very opportunely to relieve me from this perplexing situation, and took me into her apartment.

As soon as I found myself got thither, I could not refrain from bursting into tears. Do you know, said my friend, what you ought to do? Instead of crying, you should be glad that you have not received any hurt. No, continued I, (still weeping as before) I have not received any hurt, and had not my mistress interposed, I should have taken another place very contentedly, and not met with any rebuff at all; but what gives me the most concern is, to see the satisfaction that the rest of my school-fellows took at seeing me mor-

tified: And what does Miss Graham mean by saying that I ought to respect her; what reason can she give for saying any such thing? I do not know, replied my friend, that you ought to respect her, but you must consider that she is the daughter of a man of quality, and that you are not. These distinctions were quite new to me, and though I did not fully comprehend the force of them, I was nevertheless, through a kind of natural instinct, apprehensive of demanding any explanation. Miss Byron (for that was the name of my fair friend) did not wait for my asking her any questions; you do not want, said she, for sense, and will therefore I doubt not easily comprehend, and take in good part what I am going to say to you. You have hitherto been misled in your notions, and it is now high time to undeceive you.

Your

Your grandfather, though in places of great profit, yet was not satisfied, as I have been credibly informed, but extorted much more to increase his income; now this is a blot which is not easily removed. But why, said I, is a noble descent held in such great estimation in the world? Because, replied Miss Byron, the descendants are almost always worthy of esteem; besides, that as some distinctions were absolutely necessary to be made for the good of society, that was one of the easiest that could be thought of. My mother's coming to see me, put an end to this conversation between us. I did not fail exaggerating the greatness of the affront that I had received, upon which it was determined that I should immediately quit the school. I was not very sorry at this resolution being taken, more especially as I had met with so signal a mortification in the presence of



of the whole school. I regretted, however, the necessity I was under of leaving Miss Byron; she had indeed told me some very disagreeable truths, and which shocked the good opinion that I had entertained of myself, but then she had not despised me; a dawn or glimmering of reason, which now began to spread itself over my mind, made me sensible that I stood in great need of her instructions. Nor was this at all surprising, having had so little in my early years, that, conscious of my own ignorance, I was ashamed of my insufficiency, and was therefore very willing to remove it as soon as possible.

I went to her in her apartment, and embraced her very sincerely. Your present behaviour, my dear, said she, is an undoubted proof of the excellence of your disposition; and indeed it would be a melancholy consideration, if you were not ready  
to



to learn; but now alas! the opportunities of frequent instruction are going to be removed from you; the examples that you will have continually before your eyes, will lay you open to great temptations, and your youth and inexperience, render your resistance feeble and precarious: As to myself, I cannot help owning but that I have a great friendship for you, and whenever you please to come to me, you will be always welcome to my advice; which, if duly attended to, may contribute towards preventing those misfortunes, which might otherwise oppress you. I thanked her heartily, for her kind offers; we mingled our tears together at parting, and this conversation may be accounted the beginning of a connection to which I am greatly indebted, for the little share of merit that I am possessed of. Miss Byron rectified my notions with regard to things, about which I had been strangely

strangely mistaken; she shewed me them in their true and proper colours, and if she has not prevented entirely my taking any wrong steps, yet she has at least made me sensible of them when taken. As soon as I returned home, my several masters attended me as before in order to finish my education, in the choice of whom the most expensive ones were constantly preferred. And this is owing to a prejudice very commonly to be met with in people of fortune, namely, that fine accomplishments are to be bought as well as any other commodity. Happily for me, nature had provided me with such good parts, that this expence was not thrown away upon me. I had a great aptness and readiness to learn; I soon became mistress of the several accomplishments of a fine lady. Add to this, that I was excessively handsome. It is now so long since this was the case, that

that I may freely say this, without any imputation of vanity.

Being young, handsome, and a great fortune, were surely qualifications enough to draw after me a number of admirers, nor were they wanting in the least; but happily for me, my father had resolved that I should not marry till I had reached my nineteenth year. Indeed my mother would have been able of herself to have drawn a great deal of company to her house, for although her features were not so regular as mine, yet she was exceedingly handsome. Had she been contented with her own situation, she would undoubtedly have been a very amiable woman; but she always affected the lady of quality, and gave herself as many airs, as if she had really been such. But this was not all, she was likewise a great pretender to wit and humour, for which she was not fitted by nature,  
either

either in mind or body. Though the asserting that it depends in a great measure on the frame and constitution of the body, may appear strange to some, it is nevertheless an undoubted truth; it being certain that the understanding can never perform its functions aright, unless the organs of the body are so constituted, as to make them appear to advantage. There are certain expressions and phrases, which people of quality oftentimes bring into vogue, and which, at first, besides the additional charms of novelty, are expressive of what they are intended to denote; but which become utterly absurd and ridiculous, when repeated too often. My mother was continually exposing herself in this manner. She was not contented with the ordinary and usual methods of expressing her sentiments, and as she was not very conversant in the elegancies of language, she was perpetually



pepetually making mistakes. She was a great drawler; which proceeded either from her studying to say something genteel, or from her thinking it fashionable to speak slow.

C H A P. II.

*The sallies of youth, the progress of passion, and some distant hints of admirers, accurately stated.*

I HOPE the freedom with which I have here spoken of my mother, will not prejudice any of my readers against me, more especially as I have never been wanting in respect to her, which made me under great concern, whenever I perceived her turning the bright side of her character from the observation of the company; and this, to make way for pretensions to a quality, to which she had not the title in reality. I was not altogether without hopes, that my  
example



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example might have some influence upon her, and therefore I took care to avoid whatsoever had the least appearance of affectation. From the character which has here been given of her, it may easily be imagined that she was never satisfied but when in company with people of fashion. She was highly delighted whenever she spent her time with any of them, let it be attended with ever so much expence or distaste. Every thing was sacrificed to the vanity of appearing in publick with a dutchess, and to the pleasure of telling some of the second-hand gentry, that my lord —, or the countess —, came frequently to sup with her.

However, even those days on which she was so highly honoured and delighted, were attended with some trouble and embarrassment; all those good sort of people to whom my father had given the run of his table

table, were obliged to be sent out of the way; for my mother would have been ashamed to have had them seen near her. Some distant relations of ours were in the same situation, and increased the confusion at these times; for my parents would not let them appear in publick, and they were not at all disposed to conceal themselves.

I cannot help being ashamed, even at this distant period of time, of what used to happen on the days in which we expected much company. The whole house was in a ferment even early in the morning. My mother used to begin to give my father his lesson; for as she could not send him out of the way, she thought it proper to give him some rules for his behaviour. He was, as I said before, a good sort of man, and would have had shown himself a man of sense, had his wife been pleased to have per-

permitted him so to do; but she had been so perpetually talking to him of the happiness of living in good company, that he had imbibed pretty much the same notions. An easy carriage and behaviour had been particularly recommended to him for his imitation; but as it is a very difficult matter to distinguish between a civil and polite freedom, and an ordinary familiarity, and as this distinction is only the result of knowledge and experience, it is no great wonder that my father and mother constantly mistook this matter.

Altho' they did not use their company with much politeness, yet the house was continually crouded. The liberty they had of introducing whom they would, and perhaps too the pleasure of making a jest of us, hindered those gentlemen and ladies from considering, that it was as improper for them to come, as it was foolish

foolish in us to receive them. My mother could not help coquetting, which her beauty and quality, as she vainly imagined, required at her hands; but the great difficulty lay in getting admirers suitable to her taste. Had a man of quality made the slightest overtures, it would have turned her head presently; but those kind of people have their maxims upon which they form their behaviour. They would be afraid of being laughed at, if they paid their address to a country gentleman's wife, with any seeming attention and degree of earnestness.

My presence was not any impediment in the least. The custom of a mother's giving up all pretensions when her daughter comes into life, had been long ago abolished. Every woman had her particular admirers, and it was no unusual thing to begin with the mother, more especially when



when they had a match in their view. Lord Grey was the man who had the most sway in our house. Partly malice, and partly vanity, gave him a satyrical and detracting way of talking. He despised every one else, in order to have the more leisure to admire and esteem himself: By frequently railing against the families of others, he had inculcated an opinion of the dignity of his own. The same method had acquired him the reputation of virtue and probity, of which he had set himself up for judge. He decided in all cases peremptorily, and with an air of the utmost authority; however, he was not always free and communicative. As he was known to be a man of spleen and ill-nature, he was dreaded rather than beloved; the only instances of his complacency were to be seen sometimes in his behaviour towards my father; but this extraordinary favour most commonly preceded some request

quest to borrow money, which he seldom, if ever, returned.

The rest of the company that used to come for their diversion, consisted chiefly of a set of self-sufficient coxcombs, who were eternally prating, being never so well pleased as when they hear their own tongue run. Great ignorance, a sovereign contempt for every thing that had the least appearance of decency, void of all principles, vicious by choice, and debauched through idleness, these were the particulars of the characters of the generality.

It was a full year after my leaving the boarding school, before I was permitted to be present, when this extraordinary company used to meet at our house. I was previously to be mistress of all those accomplishments which are so necessary to recommend a young lady to the esteem

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esteem of the world. Were I willing to indulge my reflections on this head, I should have matter enough; but I forbear, because they would be equally useless, both to those who are capable of reflecting themselves, and to those who never give themselves the trouble of reflecting at all. I used at those times to retire to my own apartment as soon as I had dined, and there spent some hours, which I really believe were the happiest in my life. As soon as I had done with my masters, I went to reading romances, which I was exceedingly fond of. The tenderness and sensibility which were implanted in my very nature, made me susceptible of a pleasure which received no allay. I interested myself deeply in the adventures of the several heroes; their successes or disasters affected me in the same manner as if they had been my own. Although this kind of reading laid a foundation

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ation for, and made me more ready to receive the impressions of love, yet it gave me at the same time a great relish for virtue, and afforded me an opportunity of discovering the real sentiments of those who professed themselves my admirers.

Lord M—— (a nobleman of distinction in Ireland) who stuck very close to me, ever since my first coming into company, was the first who attracted my observation. I was more agreeable to him than he was willing to have it believed, inasmuch that he avoided all appearance of assiduity, concealing as much as possible the inclination which he felt within himself for me. I believe he would fain have made me quite ignorant of his designs. It was a perfect ridicule to observe the great pains he took in publick to give his compliments the air of imperiousness, as if he said, that he advised me to

C

love



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love him, but when in private, he talked in a very different strain. Love had not then any vanity to struggle with, and it was upon those occasions, that he always showed himself tender and fearful. Young as I then was, the contrast of this behaviour appeared extremely ridiculous, and gave me a very different opinion of his lordship, from what he would have been willing to have given me. It was not long before he had several rivals. My beauty, and the circumstance of my being a heiress, afforded me lovers of two distinct kinds, namely, some who had matrimony in view, and therefore paid their addresses to me upon that score, and others who made it a point to attach themselves to every pretty woman that fell in their way. Indeed I know not to which motive of these two I was indebted for the courtship of Sir Harry Bouvery; he was worthy of esteem, and yet not exempt from the imper-  
tinences

tinences and faults incident to people at his time of life.

I gave a regular account of my sentiments to Miss Byron, whom I visited very frequently. She laughed a good deal at my aversions and inclinations. Continue, said she, as long as you can in your present situation. Your father is exceeding fond of you, take advantage of his tenderness to choose out a husband for yourself that will make you happy. Neither your reason nor your inclination have made any suggestions to you at present, and, indeed, I could wish that your inclinations would not intermeddle at all in the affair; but I am afraid it will interpose some time or other, and that too to your prejudice. Your sensibility is such that I cannot help having some apprehensions concerning your future tranquillity. You will undoubtedly be ruined if ever you meet with any one

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who is deeply versed in the arts of love, and who knows how to persuade you that he loves you.

C H A P. III.

*A little love founded in vanity, and ending in disappointments.*

I AM now coming to relate that part of my life in which this prediction was but too literally fulfilled. My mother who was fond of appearing in publick, had a box at one of the play-houses to see a new tragedy. We were to go thither with a lady of quality, who had condescended so far only because she had none else to go with, and who left us, as soon as she had found some company that she liked better. My mother and I then were left alone in one of the front boxes. The house was exceeding full of persons of distinction. My mother, in order  
to

to indulge the vanity of being known to several of them, was continually making curtesies. As to me, I was wholly engaged in attending to what was going forward upon the stage, and indeed could not help feeling some concern on account of my mother's behaviour. The impatience however that I had to hear the occasion of lord M——t's noise, drew my eyes towards him: I found that he was disputing very eagerly with a gentleman about the tragedy that was then acting; or rather he was reproaching him for seeming to listen to it, for it is not at all unusual with those fine gentlemen to approve or condemn, without knowing in reality any thing of the matter. As he found that I was looking at him, and that every one around me was extolling my beauty, he thought that he might, without any great impropriety, step into our box for a minute.



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I perceived that the person he had been talking with upon his coming back into his place, had enquired very earnestly who we were. They are, replied my lord, the wife and daughter of a country gentleman; the girl you see is handsome, and they keep a very good table, these were the reasons of my getting acquainted with them. Love had no hand in the affair said his friend? as to that matter, I never trouble my head about it, if you have nothing better to do this evening, I will introduce you to supper, nay I should be obliged to you for your company, I will go and engage two or three more friends for it is no indifferent matter to have a pretty strong party in such a house as that. Notwithstanding the reluctance which lord Bruce (for that was the person's name to whom lord M——t had been talking) felt at being introduced into any family by a man of so ridiculous a stamp

stamp as my lord, yet the desire of being better acquainted with me got the better of his scruples, and accordingly he accepted the invitation. As soon as the play was over they both came to hand us out of the box. Lord Bruce was soon introduced, and having put us into the coach, got into theirs, and drove to our house, where there was a good deal of company already assembled. What a different person was lord Bruce from all those whom I had hitherto met with? I do not speak of his bodily accomplishments, for I flatter myself that had they been his only qualifications, they would not have made much impression on me; but his sprightliness and good sense surprized and affected me extremely, and I had frequent opportunities of being more fully convinced of the truth of my observations afterwards.

Our conversation turned at first upon the play that had been acted:

the coxcombs that frequented our house in swarms, pronounced it to be the most execrable performance that had ever been played. I told lord Bruce so, said lord M——t. Ay indeed, replied lord Bruce, you told me so, before the first act was half over. As to my own part, I must confess freely, I never judge so rashly of any thing; if a tragedy affect me, I am perfectly well satisfied, and never quarrel with the author for the manner in which he has done it; on the contrary, I am extremely obliged to him for the pains he has taken to inspire me with so agreeable and pleasing a sensation.

They then proceeded to talk of several occurrences that had lately happened: lord Bruce kept up to his character throughout the whole, being highly unwilling that any one should indulge his own ill-nature at  
the

the expence of the characters of others. The cards being brought in, put an immediate end to their conversation. Lord Bruce and I were the only persons that did not play. I perceived him fix his eyes very steadfastly upon me, which threw me into a good deal of confusion. In order to recover myself a little, I went up to one of those tables where they were playing; my lord did not presume to follow me immediately, but luckily an incident which gave some occasion for dispute among the gamesters, gave him an opportunity. I believe he continued looking at me for some time; as for me, I did not so much as dare to lift up my eyes, although I had a great inclination. I found no desire to read that evening before I went to bed, as I had been accustomed to do. An agreeable confusion which, I had not hitherto experienced, engaged my whole attention. I recollected, as well



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as I could, everything that I had heard lord Bruce say, and congratulated myself on being of a similar opinion to his. I did not dare to dwell too long on the attention with which he had looked on me the whole evening, but only thought of it in the general. I spent almost the whole night in this manner. I then regretted that I had not slept, and was under great apprehensions that it would impair my complexion.

My toilette, which I had hitherto wholly disregarded, now became matter of serious business. I became very desirous of appearing to the best advantage, and was continually puzzled to know what gown would become me best. Where are you going, Madam, then? would my woman frequently say to me. This question startled me a good deal, and threw me into some confusion. The motive upon which I acted in this manner, I was as yet, wholly

wholly a stranger to. Some of the people who had supped with us the evening before, came to dinner the next day, and, among other things, how do you like my lord Bruce? said one of them to my mother; he does not want sense, and, considering he has not seen much of the world, his behaviour is not amiss. Of what family is he? said my mother. Some people say, replied the gentleman who spoke first, that he is of a very antient one, but I cannot say that I give much credit to it. If he is, why does he not mention it, and make himself esteemed upon that account; surely this would be very necessary to one who has no very great estate. He has got (said colonel Morley, who had hitherto been silent) something that is much better than an estate, I mean sentiments of honour and honesty. As to his family, give me leave to assure you, that every impertinent coxcomb, who is continually  
talking

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talking of his birth, and plaguing every body he comes near, of his pretensions to nobility, is greatly his inferior in this particular. And altho' he knows well enough the degree of estimation that is usually given to rank in the world, yet he can never prevail upon himself to give them a value, which he is conscious in his own mind they do not deserve.

I cannot express the pleasure which this account gave me, and that not so much on account of lord Bruce's being praised, as at seeing the intolerable vanity of this coxcomb humbled. We went out soon after dinner to pay some visits, which had never appeared so tedious to me before: and what was the worst of all was, that my mother, who had no set supper at home, went out to a friend's of hers, where I sat upon thorns under the tedious operation of being examined and admired, but not by the  
persons

persons, from whom I could have wished it. When I came home, I read over the names of the persons who had been there with great attention, but could not discover the name that I wanted. I was piqued, but was far from owning to myself the cause of my chagrin. I placed it to the account of lord Bruce's unpoliteness, in not coming to thank my mother for her civility. I thought it was making too free with a person, to whom he had been so lately introduced.

We went out after dinner several afternoons running; at last, I found lord Bruce's name among the number of our visitors. It was plain that he had staid to be sent to. I imagined that he did not think us fit company for him. This thought came across me several times in the night. He did not appear any longer to me in so amiable a light, but I dwelt

on



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on this last reflection too often. My vanity, which had received a considerable shock from lord Bruce's indifference, stood in need of something to recover it to its former sway and influence over me. The public diversions contributed most effectually to the doing this. I got almost daily a fresh supply of admirers; a secret hope of finding him that had deserted me, and letting him see me surrounded by a croud of lovers, was what sustained me chiefly, and made me bear up. I looked for him every where, and whenever I found out that he was not there, then all desire of pleasing abandon'd me entirely. The lovers, who could then no longer serve my purpose, became absolutely insupportable.

Chance, at length, effected what my utmost endeavours had been ineffectual to procure. We went out one morning to see a famous collection  
of

of pictures. Lord Bruce was there, and though there were numberless others, yet I verily believe he was the only person that struck me. My heart beat with agitation, for fear he should quit the room without perceiving me. However, my mother soon relieved me from my anxiety; as she saw nobody else there of her acquaintance, she made no scruple of calling to him. He came up to us with an air of the utmost embarrassment. She chid him for not having come near us. He told us, he had left his name at our door very frequently. If you have a mind, said my mother, to find me at home, you must come either to dinner or supper; as for instance, to-day if you please. I am extremely sorry, replied my lord; I have an engagement upon my hands, which it is impossible for me to put off. To-morrow then, said my mother.

Madam,

Madam, replied his lordship, I really am not at liberty to-morrow.

Being a good deal piqued at so many refusals, I could not help saying, in a manner that was pretty expressive of what I felt within, why would you lay any restraint, Madam, on his lordship, he has got something better to do? I shall never forget the look that he gave me upon saying these words; his eyes, full of tenderness and timidity at the same time, seemed to reproach me for my cruel surmises. Having just run over the pictures without paying any attention to them, we went out and parted, but were scarce got home before lord Bruce came. He told us, that he had found means to put off his engagement, and that, if we would be troubled with his company, he would spend the day with us. Suppose him at table, and me in a flow of spirits which I had hardly ever before experienced :

perienced : every thing appeared in a new light to me, and those very people who used to tire me to death, now only furnished me with matter for ridicule. I believe lord Bruce was pretty much in the same situation ; we were both of us full of that pleasant sensation which every one feels on beginning to love, and which every one pays so dearly for in the sequel.

C H A P. IV.

*Female friendship dissected, and found to consist of many repeated promises, and little performances.*

THE day glided away very quick, and so did many succeeding ones ; during all which time lord Bruce continued his visits. As I did not examine my sentiments, I did not give myself any uneasiness about them. By degrees, however, a close acquaintance was formed between my  
lord



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lord and myself. We communicated our sentiments to each other upon the several persons that used to come to our house; a single wink was sufficient to denote that we observed the ridiculous parts of their behaviour. Our remarks were conducted chiefly by interest. The women, if handsome, never failed of being rallied by me; and the men, who shewed the least inclination to pay their addresses to me, drew upon themselves my lord's censure. I became now less fond of going to see Miss Byron. Friendship in general becomes very cold, when the mind is otherwise engaged and taken up in pursuits of more fancied importance. And even supposing it should resume its former influence, it is only when a confidant becomes necessary in the affair; however, I had not yet proceeded so far. Whenever I went to her, and was going to relate the incidents that had befallen me since my

my seeing her last, I found myself greatly embarrassed. My heart was sensible of great emotion, whenever I was obliged, in the course of the narration, to mention my lord Bruce's name. Miss Byron seemed to guess what was really the matter, and asked me several questions relating to him. I could not resist the pleasure that I felt in speaking well of him : I launched out, therefore, in praise of his person, his understanding, and discretion. He has the art, perhaps, said Miss Byron, of concealing his true sentiments, and putting on this specious appearance. Oh no, said I with a good deal of warmth, this is not the case, I assure you : I have examined him thoroughly as to that matter. And why have you examined him so thoroughly? said she; I am sadly afraid, that he has engrossed more of your attention than he ought. Take care of yourself, my dear; what a great misfortune would it

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it be, if you should fall in love with a man whom it is impossible for you to marry ; for I conclude, from what you have been saying, that lord Bruce has not a sufficient fortune, to induce your parents to give their consent ; reserve your heart, therefore, for him who is more likely to be your husband.

Somebody else coming in, put an end to our conversation ; and indeed she had already said enough to me. What a melancholy truth had she been telling me ? I returned home very pensive, but had not sufficient courage to enquire into the situation of my mind. I comforted myself, however, a little, upon my lord's not having said any thing to me as yet, that bore the least resemblance or affinity to the passion of love. And it seemed at that time absolutely impossible for me to love any one, who was not disposed to give me a mutual  
return

return of affection. We went that day to a concert, where there was a great deal of company. My mind was wholly taken up with the abovesaid reflections. Lord Bruce, who had placed himself just over-against me, perceived that I was pensive. He imagined, that I turned my eyes from him purposely. Being uneasy and alarmed at this sudden alteration, he came and begged to know the reason of it, as soon as he could get up to speak to me. Nothing at all is the matter, said I with an air that belied my assertion at the same time. I do not pretend, said he, to have any right to enquire into the reason, or to complain of your behaviour, but for pity's sake tell me.

These words were accompanied with a look which convinced me of the tenderness of his sentiments; we understood each other immediately. We



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We both of us kept a profound silence for some time, and, for the first time in our lives, found ourselves embarrassed at being left together. He continued very pensive the rest of the evening, nor was I a whit better. When I retired to my own apartment in the evening, I recollected every thing that Miss Byron had said to me. The looks and behaviour of my lord, left me no room to doubt any longer of the sentiments which he entertained, which I should have been very willing to have done, had there been a possibility. This doubt would have been a very material consolation to me, and would have furnished me with an excuse at least for not examining into the situation of my heart. But what could I do? Was it in my power to forbid my lord's visits? No, it was my father's house, in which I had no other privilege than what was allowed, and could not therefore pretend to assume any authority.

authoritiy. I concluded at length that there was no necessity for my altering my behaviour in the least, and that I should stay till I had some more substantial reasons to proceed upon, before I gave myself any uneasiness. How did I know what might happen, or what events I was destined to be concerned in? notwithstanding all my resolutions to the contrary, my behaviour towards lord Bruce was not the same as usual, nor was his towards me. We had both of us lost our former gaiety. We discoursed less than formerly, but as the subjects of our former conversations were very different from those which we should have been willing to have talked upon, my lord was no great loser by this, for I understood his meaning perfectly well by his looks, without his saying a syllable.

I remained for some time in this situation which could not absolutely  
be

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be denominated either good or bad. My father and mother used frequently to have private conferences together, which was wholly new and surprising. It never came into my mind that I might possibly be the subject of them, which proved, alas! to my misfortune to be but too true; nor was it long before I came acquainted with it. My father sent for me one morning, I found him in the parlour with my mother, who informed me that they had resolved to marry me to the marquis of C——, son to the duke of C——. She made a long detail of the several advantages that would come to myself and family from this marriage, that I should go to court, and have a weekly drum at my own house; which last circumstance, as she looked on as the very pink of perfect happiness, she concluded by telling me, that I might think myself very well off, that she had brought my father just

just the same fortune that they intended to give me and had been much handsomer, and yet how very different the two matches were.

My father, notwithstanding the subjection he was under to his wife, was a good deal nettled at this comparison. My dear said he, I know many a dutchess that would be glad to have as much pin money as you. This reply gave me an opportunity of testifying my disapprobation. I was promised that I should not be married said I, till I was nineteen years of age; now as I am not yet come to that, I am in no great hurry to be made a dutchess. Although you may not be in a hurry, said my mother pretty sharply, yet we are. But madam said I, my father has already told you that you are happier than a great many dutchesses. Your father replied she has a very mean way of thinking, but go and dress yourself

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self child, for I am going out, and perhaps I shall take you along with me.

Had I been alone, with my father, I should have communicated my sentiments to him without any reserve. I perceived very plainly that he loved me on my own account, whereas my mother's tenderness was altogether founded upon selfish motives. And besides all this the dictating manner in which she constantly spoke, excited my fear, rather than engaged my affections. I went up into my apartment in a very different situation from that in which I had quitted it. I had so great a weight upon my spirits, that I was unable to bear it alone, and accordingly I went to Miss Byron's, who was the only friend to whom I could freely unbosom my self. Two hours anxiety had produced such an alteration in my countenance, that  
immediately

immediately upon seeing me, she asked me whether I was well. I wish I was, replied I weeping, or rather I believe, I wish I was eased of this burden of life, which at present oppresses me. What is the matter with you then my dear, make haste and acquaint me with the cause of your uneasiness. Alas replied I, I am the most unfortunate person in the world, my father and mother have just been informing me that they have concluded a treaty of marriage for me with the marquis of C——; now what can I do, keep me with you, I had rather spend my life here than be married to a man whom I hate, and who marries me only on account of my fortune; who thinks all the while that he is doing me great honour, and who will despise me as soon as I am married. His rank and fortune do not prepossess me in his favour in the least, for of what use will all that be to me,

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when the man himself will create such an aversion in me towards every thing that bears the least relation to him. Give me your advice I beseech you how to behave on this occasion.

Why replied Miss Byron, you must comply with your parents injunctions. Alas replied I, you have but little concern for me, since you so easily consign me to perpetual wretchedness. I am willing said she that you should hearken to reason, you have not so much as the least pretence for refusing the marquiss. And why do you imagine that he will despise you? why do you fill your head with such unjust suspicions. Are you the first instance of a girl of fortune's marrying into a good fashionable family. Get some place at court, and then your birth will be so far from being a prejudice that it will prove a great advantage. Engage the publick

publick in your behalf by your irreproachable behaviour, and then your husband will not dare to treat you with contempt. But said I, I hate him, and shall always continue to do so.

Miss Byron upon this, looked at me for some time with a good deal of attention, which made me apprehensive of looking up. You are afraid my dear said she of my founding your inclinations, but give me leave to assure you that I discovered them long ago. The marquis of C appears to you in so odious a light only because you are so enamoured of lord Bruce. I have not mentioned this to you before, because I thought that you would make use of my information to justify it to yourself. What are you thinking of continued she, and where do you imagine that this passion will end. Are you willing to make yourself unhappy



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py for ever, for you must be sensible that you can never marry him. The name of lord Bruce, and the consideration of the impossibility of my being married to him, which I had only thought of very vaguely, and in the general, filled me with so tender, and melancholy a sentiment, that I could not help bursting into tears. I pity you sincerely said Miss Byron, speak to me without reserve, and do not be ashamed at making a confession of your foible. For although I disapprove of your sentiments, yet I am heartily sorry for you, you stand in need at present, both of advice and resolution. Is my lord Bruce acquainted with your prepossession in his favour? alas! replied I, how is it possible he should. Has he ever spoken to you upon that subject, and in what manner have you hitherto behaved towards each other. I was now in a situation in which it was become absolutely necessary

cessary that I should have a confidant; Besides, the friendship that Miss Byron expressed for me, and indeed had shown on all occasions, was an additional inducement; and above all the pleasure that one feels in discoursing of what one loves. I then gave her a long detail, not only of what lord Bruce had said in particular to me, but of what I had heard him say to other people. Oh said I, if you did but know how sensible he is, and how superior to the generality of men that one meets with.

I readily believe said Miss Byron every thing that you have been saying, but my dear he is by no means a proper husband for you. Well then said I, I will retire into the country and board at some farm house, and live by myself. This is still less in your power to do than the former; what then are you determined to act like some heroine in romance,

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mance, and determine that you will not marry at all, because your parents have not picked out a man to your mind? Take my word for it, this concern of yours, however violent it may be at present, will soon wear off; you will find no great difficulty in prevailing upon yourself to forget my lord Bruce, and in order to do this, you need only summon a great deal of resolution. But contentment is not the only thing requisite, to make retirement agreeable. Take care that you do not let the marquis perceive that you have any dislike to him; if he once is sensible of this you may depend upon it that he will never forgive you, you may be ceremonious and upon the reserve, but you must not put on the least haughtiness in your behaviour.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

*Is full of material business.*

**T**HIS discourse of Miss Byron's, contributed only to my affliction, without persuading me in the least; I reproached her for it, the replies that she made were so full of tenderness, and the manner of her expressing herself so tender and affecting, that she made me promise at length, to behave as she thought proper. In consequence of this, I was to avoid lord Bruce, not to give him any opportunities of speaking to me, but if notwithstanding my endeavours to the contrary, he should speak to me, I should immediately desire him to forbear his visits for the future. I was some time before I could prevail on myself to consent to this last article, urging in my behalf that I had no right to forbid him



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my father's house. Do not endeavour to deceive yourself in this manner said she, if lord Bruce is such a kind of man as you have represented him to me, he will comply with your injunctions ; if he is not, it is not worth your while to give yourself any concern about him. She made me promise to come and see her soon, and give her an account of what I had done.

I left her with a good deal of anxiety, the explanation she had given me of the situation I was in, increased my uneasiness a good deal more. My tenderness for lord Bruce if continued, seemed to forbode nothing but misery ; nevertheless I found a great pleasure in giving myself up to it ; nay I went so far as to imagine that it was very pleasant to suffer on account of a person that one loved. I was scarce got home, when the dutchess of C—— came to present

sent the marquis her son in form. I had cryed so much that my eyes were still red. The dutchess made me several compliments on the reluctance that I expressed to leave my parents. Do you know Madam said she to my mother, that it is a greater peice of merit than you think perhaps, to be fond of a mother so young and handsome as yourself, and then turning short round to me, do not let your mother said she engross your affection, I would fain have a share in your esteem if I could; she then discoursed of the several suits of cloaths which it would be proper for me to make up, larding her conversation every now and then with a court expression or two.

I listened to her till I was quite tired of her, perhaps notwithstanding my inclinations to the contrary, my own vanity contributed a little towards this; and the dissipated and unthinking

unthinking air of the marquis was full as disagreeable and disgusting as the proposals of his mother. I had caught him looking very frequently at his watch. It was almost time to go to the play, what likelihood could there be, that my company would make him defer the displaying to publick view, a rich suit of embroidery which he had put on that day for the first time. The dutchess in order to satisfy in some measure her son's impatience, made an end of her visits, and told us as she was going away, that she was going to make some necessary preparations against the wedding, I am very impatient, and indeed I long to have it over. My mother's vanity was of use to me for once, as it prevented me from giving a reply which had it fallen to my share would have embarrassed me greatly; she told the dutchess that there were some preliminaries to be settled before the match

match could be brought about; and that it was necessary the marquis should settle a jointure on his intended spouse.

I felt an agreeable sensation at the respite which this settlement seemed to promise me. I spent this day and the following ones pretty much in the same manner as usual. The marquis us'd to come and shew himself at the time of day in which he had nothing better to do. Although we had not as yet received any congratulations on the intended wedding, it was talked of nevertheless, and indeed I perceived from lord Bruce's countenance that he was acquainted with it; mine likewise, which was as expressive of the utmost concern, should have informed him, what were my sentiments on the affair. I avoided him however, but to say the truth, not so much for the sake of getting rid of  
of



of his company, as that I might not have an opportunity of desiring him to forbear his visits. Besides I was at liberty to act in what manner I thought proper, more especially as they considered my marriage as an event that was very near at hand; accordingly I made use of this liberty to stay pretty much in my own room. One day after my musick master had left me in a state of pensive thoughtfulness, and tender sensations, the effect that musick most commonly had upon me, more especially too when something lays heavy on one's spirits, my eyes were fixed on a piece of paper, which however I did not examine with much attention, when a noise that I heard, made me look up and perceive lord Bruce leaning on the back of a chair, with all the marks of the utmost dejection in the world, insomuch that had I been ever so in-  
different

different towards him, I should not have been able to have withheld my pity.

We remain'd for some time without saying a syllable to each other, I made a motion to go into another apartment, where my woman was working. For heavens sake, said he with an air of great confusion, hear me one moment. If my life only was concerned, I would not run the hazard of exposing myself to your displeasure, but believe me, the happiness or misery of your future life is at stake. The marquis of C——, to whom you are going to be married, is a man of the most worthless character, has not the least principle of honour or honesty, and pretends to some vices which in reality he has not. So far is he from either knowing or being sensible of his approaching happiness, that he thinks he honours

nours you extremely by giving you his name. Your fortune will only serve to make him ten times worse; he will forget, either that he is indebted to you for it, or that you ought to partake of any part of it, and will spend it in all the wantonness of luxury and extravagance.

Am I at my own liberty said I (wiping away some tears that were falling) I foresee but too well the misfortunes that await me. And do you then said my lord resign yourself up so calmly to misery? are you determined not to exert the influence that you have over a father, who is so fond of you? be happy, if it is only out of pity; be happy, to prevent my dying through despair! alas, replied I, I can never be happy. Yes, said my lord, you would most certainly have been so, had not fortune treated me so cruelly. Surely such a passion as mine would have excited a return;

return; and I should neither have known, nor desire to have known, any other happiness, than that of continually contributing to your ease and satisfaction. I know not what reply I was going to make, when I heard some one tap at the door, and upon going to it, found it was the marquis of C——. This unexpected visit, more especially as I imagined he had overheard all that lord Bruce had been saying, threw me into great confusion. What would he think of me, and what was the more tormenting reflection of the too, what would the world think of me? I reproached lord Bruce for his indiscretion, in bringing me into such a dilemma, and when I had made an end, I burst into tears. The marquis upon this immediately retired. Lord Bruce was so concerned at the uneasiness he had occasioned, that this very concern was a sufficient justification,  
and



and attonement. I had told him at first pretty sharply to leave my room; and though I continued still saying the same thing, yet it was in a very different tone of voice from the former. The heart rectifies all those mistakes presently.

This incident, which in the natural course of things, ought to have prejudiced him in my favour, was productive of a quite contrary effect. I found, upon examination, that we were both of us distressed, and then proceeded to reason upon the consequence that this affair might have, and on the manner in which I ought to behave. I flattered myself that this would be a means of breaking off the intended match. I dare not hope any such thing, said lord Bruce; the marquis has neither honour enough in himself, nor love enough for you, to have any great notion of delicacy. The want of affection in the rival, naturally drew one protestation from  
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the lover. At last, I do not very well remember how it came about, but sure I am, that I heard him with great pleasure, and before we parted, I promised to let him know the upshot of this affair. I would fain have had him absented himself from our house some days, but he would not consent to this proposal. Prudence said he absolutely requires that there should not be the least alteration in his behaviour. As to my own part, I must own that I acted very unthinkingly, but then it must be remembered that I was only seventeen years of age, and that my heart was naturally susceptible of tender impressions; that I had a strong prepossession in favour of lord Bruce, and an invincible aversion for the marquis of C——.

The marquis came that evening and supped at our house as usual; could I have doubted in the least that he

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he had overheard our conversation in the morning, his air and countenance would have made me wavering. He spoke to me with the same ease and freedom as before, addressed himself particularly to lord Bruce, and was so far from shewing himself piqued in the least, that he constantly coincided with lord Bruce in his opinion. We both (by our eyes) expressed our surprize at this behaviour; indeed, I imagined that it was the effect of artifice, and that he was willing to break off the match, without making any stir. He then, for the first time in his life, appeared in an amiable light; but I soon altered my opinion of him, when I heard, about two days afterwards, that he was pressing the conclusion of the marriage with greater earnestness than ever; and that he made use of every argument, to prevail on my mother not to stay till the settlements were made. So base and unworthy a behaviour,

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haviour, produced a most sovereign contempt of him in my mind, which was already disposed to hearken to his faults. I thought it absolutely necessary to consult lord Bruce in this affair. He had so thorough an insight into the marquis's real character, that I flattered myself he could not fail of giving me proper advice.

With what violence are we actuated by our passions, when we yield to them in the most trifling instance! I found myself all of a sudden in a correspondence with my lover, heard him make continual professions of the sincerity of his passion, and went so far as to declare my own sentiments in that particular. I brought myself to believe, that there was not the least appearance of indecency in entertaining and conversing with my lover in private, more especially as my woman was so near at hand; but then I had taken care to gain this  
woman



woman over to my interests. I had several private interviews with lord Bruce: He always found out some pretence or other to make them necessary; and indeed I must own that I was always of his mind. It was resolved upon at length, that I should speak to my father, and tell him of the great dislike that I had to this match. He is, said lord Bruce, a man of sense, but spoilt for want of being early introduced into company. When he comes to reflect coolly on the matter, it is to be hoped he will not think of forcing your inclinations. I have often thought, continued he, of insinuating myself into your father and mother's esteem, by the same methods that others do, but I constantly found great reluctance to the putting it into execution. Besides, that it would have been a most unpardonable affront to you, to attempt to heighten the ridicule of those characters

racters, for which you are so deeply concerned.

The virtuous sentiments which lord Bruce shewed on this occasion, turned greatly to his account, and served to myself as excuses for my partiality towards him.

My father used to get up early in the morning: this time of day, therefore, I looked upon as very proper to speak to him. He was much surprized to see me stirring; I threw myself immediately at his feet, and, grasping hold of one of his hands, I kissed him several times, without being able to say a syllable. What is the matter with you, child? tell me what is the matter; you know the fondness that I have ever had for you. Oh, Sir! replied I, that fondness is my only dependance and support: but you are going to make me the most

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unhappy creature in the world ; you are going to marry me to the marquis of C—— : dear Sir, continued I, (still holding his hand, and wetting it with my tears) take compassion on your daughter. You make me very uneasy, said my father in a very mild tone of voice ; but whence proceeds your aversion for the marquis ? Do you think that he would not love you in return ? He does, replied I, what is ten thousand times worse, he gives me room to despise him. I am certain, however, that he has not the least esteem for me ; and, what tends to make me despise him the more is, that he thinks he may marry, without giving himself the trouble to think whether he likes his wife or no. Where have you heard all this ? said my father. I am but too well assured, said I, of its being true. He was going, I doubt not, to ask me what authority I had to say this, and

and I believe that I should have been bold enough to own my passion for lord Bruce, had not a friend of my father's come in and interrupted us.

My father had only time to take me in his arms, and tell me, that my mother was the main impediment to be removed, and that therefore I should endeavour to gain her over to my interest. I should have looked upon this as a very desperate undertaking, had not the affability with which my father spoke to me, inspired me with resolution; and I was convinced, that though he would not dare to oppose my mother openly, yet that in case I disobeyed her, it would be no difficult matter to obtain his forgiveness. I gave lord Bruce a particular account of this, and indeed I did nothing without acquainting him with it, as I considered our interests as very closely connected

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needed to each other. I had not, however, as yet dared to own, that I reserved myself for him; but with respect to that matter, we understood one another very well, without coming to a particular explanation. In the meantime, the preparations for the wedding were going on. The marquis would not take any affront, notwithstanding my endeavours to put several upon him: he took no manner of notice of the correspondence that was carried on between Lord Broce and me; and I was so far from trying to conceal it, that I affected to shew that there was more in it than there really was. I was just on the point of breaking out, when I was delivered from this inconvenience by a very melancholy incident. My father, who had always been remarkably healthy,

was

was at last seized with a violent fever. For some days my relations and friends behaved towards him with a great deal of tenderness and attention; but at the end of that time, they were quite tired out. The anti-chamber, which used to be full from morning to night of people coming to Enquire after his health, was insensibly empty. My mother held out some time longer, but at last she grew tired as well as the rest. She began to admit company, and give entertainments as usual, in order to countenance which, every one was told that my father was not in the least danger, and that he only stood in need of rest to compleat his recovery. The physicians, in order to please my mother, said the same, but talked in a very different strain to me. I foresaw but too well the misfortune that would ensue. I was obliged, however, to appear in pub-

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lick; my mother insisted on it, and I was not willing to add to the indecency of her behaviour, by opposing it entirely. I shortened the time of my rest, in order to have an opportunity to stay with my father. I had gotten leave to lay in a closet just by his bed-side. As soon, therefore, as every one else, except the nurse, was retired to rest, I complied with my own impatient desire, and got up to attend upon him, which I thought no one could do so well as myself.

One night as I was reading to him, in order if possible to lull him to sleep, I perceived him to be in a good deal of pain. His situation, of the consequences of which I was terribly apprehensive, affected me in such a manner; that notwithstanding my endeavours to the contrary, I could not help crying, which put an end to my reading. My father remained

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mained for some time wholly silent, then stretching out his hand towards me, My dear child, you must submit. Do not afflict yourself; it is God's will. The length of my sickness has in a manner made death familiar to me. I only regret my leaving you, Nancy, at a time of life which is usually under the influence of headstrong and wilful passion. You must be your own guide and directress, for your mother is more likely to lead you astray, than to give you wholesome advice. The reason why you cannot view things in the same light that I do at present. But alas! how blinded was I myself when in health? We never perceive the value of any blessings, till they are taken from us. Of what use has all my heap of wealth been? The use that I have made of them, has destroy'd and taken away all the comfort and satisfaction that I should



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have otherwise felt. A confused view of what I was, and of what the world thought of me, has embittered my life in such a manner, that it has left me very little tranquillity; but these secret warnings and checks had much less power over me than my wife. How could I oppose her inclinations, when I was so violently in love as I then was? Alas! that ought to have been the very reason why I should have opposed them. I gave her up to follow pernicious examples, which she was but too exact in copying. What signifies it after all, it is only an additional motive for my meeting death with resolution.

Oh! sir, said I, throwing myself on the bed, forbear to encourage so alarming a thought. What then, are you willing to forsake me? What must become of me, if I once lose you?

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you? I was not able to say any thing more thro' the violence of the grief that oppress'd me, but lean'd my head upon his pillow.

My father took me in his arms; your concern, my dear, said he, affects me very sensibly. Your mother loved me once, but that is all over now. You need not be under the least apprehensions for the future of her pressing you to marry the marquis. I see her scheme very well. As to you, my dear Nancy, never marry till you have found a husband to your mind. Mistrust your own heart, or if you should be prevailed upon to hearken to its suggestions, give me your word at least, that you will put it to the trial. I will shew you how you may do this. There is a little box which contains almost all I am worth. The man who may court you, is not rich enough perhaps

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for you, if he is a man of quality, you will reward his love and generosity by discovering to him your riches. And he will like you the better for having given him an opportunity of shewing himself to so great an advantage. If on the contrary the man you shall make choice of should have but a very moderate fortune, you will have the pleasure of contributing to the happiness of the man you admire. My father upon saying this put the box into my hands. I soon put it down, and retir'd to the farther corner of the room. The accepting it seem'd to me to own the certainty of the misfortune that so apparently threatened me, and indeed in my opinion had the appearance of hastening the catastrophe. Struck with this reflection I quitted the room with the same horror as if a precipice had been open before me. Grief quite over-

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overwhelm'd me. I threw myself upon my bed quite drowned in tears. I have experienced many misfortunes, but I know not whether I ever passed bitterer moments than those. My father upon missing me, awakened the nurse that was in the room, and sent her for me. It was some time before I could bring myself to the resolution of going. I asked whether he was worse or no. Answer was made, that he was not, but that he desired I would come and read to him. I was not in a condition to read. My eyes were quite red and sore with crying. They told my father, in order to give me some time to recover myself, that I had retired to my own apartment. He ordered them to go for me. I accordingly went, having first composed myself as well as I could. The box which my father held still in his hand, obliged me in some mea-



sure to keep at a distance from the bed.

Come hither, come hither said my father, and do not vex me by standing out any longer. Take what I give you. No fir said I to him, I can never resolve to do any such thing. Are you then fully determined to die; well then said he I entrust it to your care, both my interest and honour engage me to put it into your hands. You shall give it me again if it shall please God to restore me to my former health, and if he should think fit to dispose of me otherwise, I desire you will execute faithfully the directions that you will find contained in a piece of paper. Take all the precautions you can to prevent the persons to whom you pay the sums of money, from knowing whom it comes from. They will see but too plainly that they are meant as compensations

penalties for wrongs that have been done them. Indeed it would be but my deserts, that I should have the shame of acknowledging it to them, however that at present is impossible, and that if known would fall to your share, who do not deserve it in the least. Go, said he, my dear, putting the box at the same time into my hand, do not mention what I have said to any one, and leave me to my self, for I want to go to rest.

I was under a necessity of obeying him. Indeed his last words had in some measure diminished my reluctance. I saw plainly that I was the only person that he chose to trust with those instructions, and yet this did not prove any alleviation of my sufferings, on the contrary, it rather increased and aggravated them. The more I loved my father, the greater was my concern that he had  
any

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any reason to reproach himself; as it was very near my usual time of going to bed, I betook myself to rest according to custom, not with any intention to sleep, for I was far from being disposed so to do, but that I might be more at liberty to indulge the melancholy that oppress'd me. My mother increas'd my anxiety. I could not help suspecting from what I had heard, that she was the sole cause of my father's being in that situation; however, I was to consider that she was my mother, and that I ought to honour and respect her as such. But how could I reconcile this duty with that untowardness and dissatisfaction which I felt at her behaviour? I resolved however to keep the secret that had been entrusted to me, and to keep the little insight that I had in the affair to myself. Even lord Bruce was excluded from knowing any thing of this

this matter, but here I must ingenuously own my motive for so doing. My own partiality to myself would not permit me to point out to my father, whom I had the utmost respect for, in so disadvantageous a light.

My father seemed to be somewhat better for a few days afterwards, at which I rejoiced in a manner that was worthy of the near relation that I stood in to him. The good man seem'd pleased, and that he might not damp it to all outward appearance, hoped that he might recover, tho' he was extremely far from doing so in reality, I used to be often at his bed-side where I sat for hours. These opportunities he took hold of, to give me wholesome advice. His good sense and virtuous principles, met with no impediment to clog them, and therefore they exerted themselves freely. You will meet, would he  
say



say to me, with very ungrateful people in the world, but what have you to do with that, if they do not make you suitable returns that is entirely their fault. It is your business to do all the good that you possibly can, which carries its own reward along with it; for I must own to you that I never felt a more sincere pleasure than when I was serving my friends. I mention this incident, because the reader will see hereafter what use I made of it. Lord Bruce had behaved in a very different manner from the rest of the people that used to come to our house. He enquired after my father's health with a good deal of earnestness and concern, and when he was admitted into his apartment, did not content himself with a short visit, but staid a great while. And this was the more meritorious because it was wholly disinterested. My tenderness for my father

father engrossed my whole attention, and did not permit me to be sensible of any other sentiments. Lord Bruce reproved me for it very mildly : You seem, said he, to be wholly taken up about your father ; you are scarce sensible that I am either speaking to you or in company with you, and yet I know not whether I would have you behave in any other manner. Every thing that tends to increase the esteem that I have for you, every thing that contributes to raise and heighten my ideas of your perfections, cannot but satisfy me.

After some days, which I had spent with more tranquillity than usual, I relapsed again into my old apprehensions, and this was not the whole of my misfortune, for I had the melancholy assurance given me that it was impossible for my father to recover. He languished for some time, and then

then died, with all the humble resignation of a christian, and the calmness and composure of a philosopher; my mother and I were conveyed to a relation's house. I was almost overwhelmed with grief. My mother on the contrary found it a difficult matter to behave with common decency. And this unconcern of hers, was a fresh aggravation of my sorrow. When my mother returned home to her own house, I begged to be excused from accompanying her, and desired leave to go to Miss Byron's, who had now taken a house and lived by herself. This request was granted me without much difficulty, and if the truth was known, I believe my mother was exceeding glad of my departure, that I might not be a spy upon her behaviour. Miss Byron allotted me an apartment to myself, and I found myself extremely pleased at being so  
very

very nigh to a friend whom I esteemed.

The motives which had induced me to keep upon the reserve with lord Bruce, no longer subsisted with respect to Miss Byron, insomuch that I did not conceal from her a tittle of what my father had given me room to suspect. I have long, said she, been desirous of talking with you on that subject, but I thought it proper to let you remain ignorant, of what it was so highly necessary you should seem to be unacquainted; not was I at all less scrupulous about opening the box before her, and that not through any impatience of examining its contents; for I considered it as an important trust, and which I was to dispose of in the exact manner my father had directed. The true reason of my opening it was, that I was willing to obey his injunctions as soon



soon as possible. Miss Byron's assistance, but more especially her advice was absolutely requisite in this affair; the money was paid to the persons to whom my father had ordered it should. Every body was astonished at the small sum of money that my father had left behind him. There was now no danger of the marquis of C——'s renewing his addresses. He did not so much as behave towards me with common civility. He only left his own and his mother's name at Miss Byron's door, and I heard no more either of him or his pretensions.

## CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

*In which those who are compassionate will be affected; and those who have no compassion need not read it.*

SIR Harry Bouvery continued some time longer; but he made so little impression upon me, that I did not think it worth while to say much about him. I was not however sorry to find that he had not wholly discarded me, that I might give my lord Bruce the pleasure of seeing himself preferred. I had not seen him since my removal to miss Byron's. Upon my asking her permission for him to visit me. You would said she to me be exceedingly sorry were I to refuse you your request, and indeed I cannot but say that I shall be glad of the opportunity to see what kind of man he is; if  
upon

upon examination, I shall find him different from what you have represented him, you may depend upon my using my utmost endeavours to prevent your coming together. I was not alarmed in the least at the scrutiny with which she seemed to threaten me, for I was persuaded in my own mind that lord Bruce could not fail of being agreeable to her: however, I could not help being under some concern, when word was brought me that he was below in the parlour. Our opinions and sentiments stand greatly in need of the approbation of others, for to strengthen and confirm them.

I attended much more closely to lord Bruce's discourse than I had ever done before; nay, I went so far as to interrupt him, by supplying what I imagined to be his meaning in the general; I verily believe I could have

have dispensed with his loving me for a little while, on purpose that he might appear in a more amiable light to Miss Byron; and consequently, authorize his addresses and pretensions. It was in vain that he addressed himself to me, for my attention was wholly engaged in listening to him. Had he known the real motive of this kind silence, I doubt not but he would have been greatly affected with it; but alas he knew nothing, and was far from suspecting what was really the occasion of it. However at length I bore a part in the conversation, my eyes spoke as intelligible a language to him as ever. This was more than sufficient to restore to him his usual vivacity. He then shewed himself off in the best manner he could, and was so happy as to meet with Miss Byron's approbation.

Not-



Notwithstanding the great pleasure that I took in seeing him, yet I must own I wanted him to take his leave, in order to hear him commended at my ease. Now have I misrepresented him to you in the least? said I to Miss Byron, as soon as we were alone. You would not ask me that question, replied she, unless you were pretty sure of the answer that I should give. It is true he is amiable, and what I think is of more importance, he has all the appearance in the world of being sincere: but there is a possibility that this may only be the effect of artifice, and in reality he may only be a very dextrous dissembler. Alas! said I, how cruelly do you wrong him, and why do you try to infuse such suspicions into my mind. I would only caution you, replied Miss Byron, to be upon your guard; how miserable

miserable would you be, were you ever to discover any vices under so specious an appearance? nay, it is not requisite that his character should be vicious, were it in any point exceptionable, you would be the most unhappy creature breathing. You may depend upon it, my dear, said I, that he is no deceiver. Give me your word, I beseech you, that you will not endeavour to set me against him. Upon condition, replied she, that you will give me your's not to take any steps in the affair without my advice and consent; and that you will give credit to the report that I shall make to you of your lover, after I have made the strictest enquiries after him that I can. I accordingly gave my word, and I may say sincerely, for who was ever afraid of an examination into the character of those who are so deservedly dear to us?

Thus

Thus then, upon these conditions lord Bruce was admitted as a visitor; he made use of the privilege allowed him very frequently, inso-much that oftentimes he was with us the whole day. Love gave a relish to our interviews, and even in his absence my thoughts were pleasingly divided between recollecting the particulars of his last visit, and the hopes of being soon favoured with a succeeding one. My mother used to come near me but very seldom; notwithstanding the near relation that we stood in to each other there was very little affection subsisting between us. I was incapable of being any longer an object of her ambition. My fortune was seemingly too small to entice any wealthy admirer to pay his addresses to me. I was considered therefore in the light of a girl that tended only to obscure, and stand

stand in the way of her mother. Nor were my sentiments of her, more favourable in the least. I still remembered what my father had intimated.

My mother's behaviour, justified but too plainly the suspicions that had been formed. Her connections with the marquis of C——, (now that he could no longer go to the house under pretence of paying his addressee to me) began to make a great noise in the world. She had in all probability determined to marry him, as soon as she found herself at liberty so to do. When the time for putting her designs into execution was come, she discoursed to me of it in such a manner that no great stress could be laid upon what she had said; and yet she might say with some degree of truth, that she had apprized me of her resolution.

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I heard



I heard a few days afterwards that the match was concluded. My mother sent me word of it by my father's late gentleman, who had always been extravagantly fond of me, looking upon me as his own daughter; and who therefore shewed a good deal of concern at it, as he imagined that it would do me a great deal of harm. My composure comforted him, and he was pleased at my determining to stay where I was. But alas! how little did he know the inducements that I had to continue there, the chief of which was the seeing continually the man whom I loved.

Although my mother's marriage did not effect me in one respect, yet it did most sadly in another; It brought a fresh to my mind my poor father's death, who had always expressed

pressed so affectionate a regard for me. I reproached myself, and indeed could not help including lord Bruce in the reproach, for having taken off my thoughts too much.

I had told Miss Byron that I reserved myself for lord Bruce, but I had not as yet dared to make that declaration to him. My mother's marriage, however, introduced it naturally enough. After having discoursed with him for some time upon that subject, I began to have more resolution. He kept his eyes for some time fixed steadfastly on the ground; his air was tender, and yet not without a mixture of confusion. He did not dare to speak, I understand what you mean, said I — supposing my behaviour had been the same towards you, and supposing I had opened my sentiments to you without the least reserve. — The joy

which so evidently appeared in lord Bruce's countenance at these words, did not permit me to go on. He threw himself at my feet, and in terms of the highest astonishment and most exquisite rapture, expressed his gratitude.

This happiness, however, with which he seemed so highly delighted was yet at a distance; for my father on his death-bed, had positively forbid my marrying till I was twenty five years of age, and now I was only in my twentieth year. But what does this signify, said my lord to Mills Byron, who reminded him of this difficulty, I shall see her in the mean time, and learn how to value her more and more every day. And what can I desire more? You, continued he, addressing himself to me, will have an opportunity of knowing me thoroughly, and of proving my sincerity,

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sincerity, and by that means I, shall become more, entitled to your affection. But alas! this trial was needless, a natural inclination which I felt for him, and which I was so far from endeavouring to extirpate, that I did all I could to strengthen and confirm it, gave him already this claim to my esteem, which he was so desirous of acquiring. What happy days those were, in which we were mutually satisfied with each other, and sought for nothing farther to compleat our felicity.

I remained in this blissful situation for some months; but it was too perfect a happiness to be of any long continuance. My misfortunes began as soon as my mother gave undoubted tokens of her pregnancy. This was going to make me be considered as an eye-



fore by my father-in-law. It was not thought expedient that I should be left at liberty to dispose of myself in what manner I thought proper. My fortune, moderate as it was to all appearance, was sufficient to attract their desires. Provided I did not marry, it was to come at my death to my mother's children. In order to this end they thought it absolutely necessary to prevent my marrying, and first of all to cut off lord Bruce's pretensions.

Colonel Morley, who has been mentioned before in the course of these memoirs, and who had taken a great fancy to me, come and informed me of the designs that were carrying on against me. The duke of C —, said he is very well acquainted with the connexion that subsists between lord Bruce and you, and he will make use of his interest to

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to put a stop to the match. Do not deceive yourself, continued he, unless you are continually upon your guard, he will find it no difficult matter to prevent the match's taking effect.

This information alarmed me a good deal, and made me very apprehensive of the consequences of their endeavours. I resolved, by the colonel's advice, not to see my lord so often as I used to do. But the great difficulty lay in persuading him to come into it. He laughed at my prudent precautions, and told me, that by acting in this manner we anticipated misfortunes, which might otherwise never have happened. He was so enraged against my father-in-law, that I was obliged to make use of all my influence over him to prevent him from doing the other a mischief. In a few days after that, lord Bruce

came and told me that he was obliged to go into the country upon some material business. The evening before his departure, we felt a great reluctance and concern at being obliged to separate. My lord came back too or three times from the door, and had always somewhat or other to say in his excuse. A valet of his, who had lived with him from a boy, used to bring me a letter from him every morning. I did not doubt but that on the morrow he would bring it earlier than usual, because his master waited for his return before he could set out. I did not fail to remind him several times to send him. I got up earlier than usual that morning, and went to Miss Byron to lament my being obliged to bear this tedious absence.

I grew very impatient at his man's not coming at the appointed time ;  
but

but you may judge of my concern, when after waiting two hours beyond the usual time, no valet appeared. I sent Miss Byron's footman to enquire after him, who after waiting two hours, which seemed to me two years, brought me back word that he could find no body at home. This account threw me into great uneasiness. Just after this somebody sent up word to desire to speak with Miss Byron; so unexpected an incident alarmed me exceedingly; I ran down into the parlour, and there found my lord's valet; where is your master? said I, in a very faltering tone of voice. Alas madam replied he we are all of us undone. These Words, which conveyed to my mind an idea of the most dreadful misfortune, were the only ones that I heard. I sunk down in my chair and swooned away. Miss Byron came immediately to my



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assistance, and having brought me to myself laid me on the bed. She understood from the footman, that his master not having been at home the night before, he had made diligent enquiries at all the places where it was likely to find him. That upon returning home he had met an acquaintance of his who informed him that lord Bruce had fought a duel with lord M—— and slain him on the spot, and that no body knew wither lord Bruce was gone to. All Wilson's care (for that was the valet's name,) had hitherto proved ineffectual; this news distressful as it was, gave me some little comfort. Lord Bruce's death as I thought, for I had imagined that was the case, had made so great an impression upon me, that I looked upon a lesser misfortune as a kind of blessing; but when I had recovered my first surprize and came to reflect upon what

happened, I was very near relapsing into my former condition. I applied myself to colonel Morely, in order to get some information. He came to me immediately, and notwithstanding his endeavours to represent the affair in the most favourable light imaginable, I could not help being greatly affected with the recital.

Lord Bruce had retired to a house not far off, and just as he was preparing to quit the kingdom, he had unfortunately been laid hold of. The colonel added that he was going to make use of all his interest to spirit away the evidence. Let the reader judge if he can of the anxiety that this produced. The whole transaction presented itself to my imagination in the darkest colours. Miss Byron kept me company very constantly, she had too much sense to endeavour

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deavour to reason me out of my affliction, she sympathized with me, and by that means gave me the only consolation which I was capable of receiving. The colonel came to me to acquaint me with what he had done, as he promised he would. The melancholy gloom that was spread over his countenance made me suspect the worst. There were but too many witnesses against him, they poured in from all quarters. The numbers however said the colonel is too great, their deposition will be objected to, and by that means we shall be able to gain time at least. Although I had not ceased crying while the colonel was in the room, yet I perceived very plainly that his presence and conversation had been of the utmost use to me, for the moment he was gone, I was so far from being able to keep up my spirits in any tolerable degree, that I did not  
 imagine

imagine there was the least glimmering of hope, but pronounced the case to be absolutely desperate. I spent that night more uneasily than I had any of the preceding ones; I shuddered with horror at the very thoughts of what might happen. This idea made so deep an impression on me, that I did not so much as dare to mention it to Miss Byron. What I then felt has left such indelible traces in my mind, that even at the distance of forty years, I can neither think of, nor relate it, without feeling some emotion.

The colonel had informed me that the duel had been fought on my account. This circumstance however did not aggravate my grief, for to say the truth, it was incapable of receiving any addition. But as if it should seem that I had not already been



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been sufficiently miserable, I was threatened still farther with a new misfortune, and with such a one too as I was not at all disposed to submit to. I heard that lord Bruce was exceeding ill and would have no advice. What was to be done? Should I go and tell him that my life depended entirely upon his? Both the colonel and Miss Byron would not hear of any such resolution for some time. But they saw me at length reduced to so deplorable a condition, that they were in a manner obliged to give their consent, and to assist me in the execution of it. The colonel prevailed upon a friend of his, who knew the goaler, to introduce me to him, under a false name. They were to come and call upon me on the morrow. The preceeding night appeared excessively tedious; I got up very early, and was ready several hours before the colonel came to

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to call for me. We accordingly went together; I seemed so wholly overwhelmed with grief that the colonel's friend soon guessed why I was so desirous of being introduced. But this instead of slackening his diligence made him only the more desirous to serve me. People in general are compassionate towards those who are oppressed by those misfortunes, whose violence they themselves have formerly experienced. This was the case of the colonel's friend, who had lost accidentally a lady of great beauty and merit, upon whom he had set his affections.

After having wrapped myself up pretty close, to prevent my being known, I followed them into the dungeon, and after many turnings and windings, come at length into a place that had only a glimmering of light, which was let in by a window  
barred

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barred up exceedingly high. Lord Bruce was laying upon a bed of straw with his head turned towards the wall: a chair that stood by it was all the furniture that could be found in this miserable apartment. After the colonel's friend had spoke to, and comforted him a little, he quitted the room and left me alone with him. He had raised himself up in order to thank the person that was talking to him, in the mean time I was standing by his bed-side, trembling, drowned in tears, and unable to speak. Lord Bruce having looked stedfastly upon me for some time, knew me, notwithstanding my disguise. Alas Madam said he, what do you do here. The tears which he in vain endeavoured to stop, prevented him from going on. Even the most trifling incidents affect the hearts of lovers, but more especially in times of calamity and misfortune.

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The title of Madam, which he had given me, pierced me to the very soul. What then said I, I am no longer your Nancy, (taking hold of his hand, and pressing it between mine) are you determined to die, and to forsake me forever?

He kissed my hand and wetted it with his tears, without making me any reply; what a happiness, said he at last, am I obliged to forego! Forget me, continued he sighing very deeply, yes; I love you too well, to think of desiring you to keep up a remembrance which would serve only to torment and perplex you. Alas replied I, after much struggling within myself to find a vent for my grief, preserve your own life out of pity to mine, which so wholly depends upon it. Oh my dear Nancy, said he, do you know the situation I am in, do you consider that if I recover



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ever from my illness the hands of justice may and will probably take hold of me, as I was the aggressor. In either case then I must lose you who are the only joy and comfort of my life. But what signifies it after all, continued he, after having paused for some time, in what manner I finish my life; by taking care of my health indeed I shall have the comfortable reflections of having obeyed you even to my last moments.

The colonel's friend who had conducted me, came in about this time with a basin of broth in his hand, which he had ordered to be made. I gave it to my lord, he took it, but we were neither of us able to say a syllable. Alas I was wholly taken up in thinking that this, for ought I knew, might be the last time that I should ever see him. The gentleman, who pitied my unhappy situation

tion, put on my hood for me, and taking me under the arm, pulled me out of the room, and led me to the coach which had conducted us hither. As soon as I had got home, I was seized with a violent fever, and was so ill that my life was despaired of for several days. My distemper, great as it was, did not diminish in the least the occasion of my concern. My mind being wholly taken up about lord Bruce, I was enquiring after him almost every minute.

Miss Byron never quitted my bedside, but to go and get some information concerning him; the accounts that she gave me from time to time were such only as were proper to calm my uneasiness; this was however very far from being the case. A single word or gesture, or even so much a melancholly look was capable

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pable of alarming me in the highest degree imaginable. At length, in about a fortnight afterwards, the agreeable news was brought me of his recovery. Mine I may truly say, wholly depended on it. But no sooner were my apprehensions with respect to his health removed than I was again uneasy about the consequences of the duel. The dungeon in which I had seen him, still farther increased my tenderness and concern.

But colonel Morley's account almost distracted me; he informed me that the prosecution was carried on against him with the utmost malice; and this had made a discovery of who was his most bitter adversary, which upon examination was found to be no other man than my father-in-law. I need not repeat the reasons that he had for appearing against lord Bruce, they have already been mentioned

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mentioned. Indeed I wonder how I was able to survive this melancholly account. All we have to do said the colonel, is to bribe the gaoler and to let lord Bruce make his escape. How could the money that my father had left me, be better employed. I put therefore a very considerable sum into the colonel's hands, and altho' he was continually telling me that there was more than sufficient, yet I was still willing to make some additions. I thought that this was making lord Bruce's escape more certain, and in the midst of my grief, I felt a secret satisfaction at what I was doing for him. I waited for the success with the same impatience as if my own life had absolutely and immediately depended upon it.

A little note that was brought from the colonel informed me that every



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every thing succeeded according to my wish, and in a little while after he came and told me himself that he had bribed the gaoler into our interest, and that every thing had been agreed on among them. Lord Bruce was the only person concerned that knew nothing of the matter. The gaoler's son who used to carry him his provisions undertook to acquaint him with what had been done. But the procuring his liberty was not the only thing requisite, it was necessary to get him some accommodations in the place to which we intended he should retire. Frankfort in Germany was looked upon as one of the properest places for that purpose. The colonel settled a correspondence and got some bills of exchange upon a famous banker in that town. I wrapped them up all together, and put them in a parcel which was ordered to be delivered to my lord immediately upon

upon his arrival there. I would have concealed if possible their coming from me, waiting for happier times to come to an explanation.

All the previous steps that were necessary, had been taken, and the day upon which he was to make his escape, appointed. I waited all the preceding night with an impatience which the reader may represent to his own imagination if he can, (for it is absolutely impossible for me to describe it) for the signal which the colonel and I had agreed upon; but it was broad day light, and no signal had appeared.

The colonel, to whose house I had sent several times, came at last himself and informed me that the gaoler's son had been absent the last eight and forty hours, and that

as his father designed he should accompany my lord in his escape, he insisted that we should stay for him.

## C H A P. VIII.

*A romantic ramble, in which affection gets the better of reputation.*

**T**HUS then I was again wholly dependant upon this boy's return. There was no time to be lost. Sentence was to be pronounced in three days, and altho' the colonel told me no more of the matter than he could help, for fear of alarming me too much, I perceived but too plainly the danger my lord was in. I believe the misery that I felt all that night, was absolutely incapable of receiving any addition. But I was relieved from my anxiety very early the next morning by a note which informed

informed me that every thing had succeeded, and that lord Bruce had made his escape.

This made me almost frantic with joy; I ran to Miss Byron and embraced her, shedding abundance of tears at the remembrance of what might have been the unhappy consequence had not our design succeeded. I received a letter from my lord just before he took shipping at Dover. What a letter! what joy and gratitude did it express! this was more than a sufficient compensation for all that I had done.

I was however of so unhappy a temper in one respect, that I could not be easy for any considerable space of time together. I began to be concerned on account of our separation,

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tion, which I thought there was a possibility of never ending, as he might not be able to return with any security to his person. The scheme of going to meet him, and uniting myself to him, appeared, upon consideration, to be as difficult, as it had at first sight appeared easy and practicable. In order to compleat my happiness, it was necessary that I should be five and twenty years of age, in order to comply with my dying father's injunctions: And when I should come to that period of time, how did I know but that some fresh impediments might lay in my way?

These different considerations gave me an uneasiness, which alarmed Miss Byron a good deal. Of what a benevolent spirit was that

that amiable young lady, she never shewed the least dislike or impatience, but listened with the same attention to what I had told her twenty times before.

Great and signal services, are not so disagreeable to the doers, nor such manifest proofs of affection as these instances of friendship, which are seemingly trivial, but which are attended with much trouble, and are the effects of that compassion which generous minds consider as a debt, due to the unfortunate.

I had made use of several pretences since my lord Bruce's melancholy accident to stay with Miss Byron. I had not seen my mother ever since. I used to send regularly to enquire after her health, and word at length was

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brought me, that she was so far advanced in her pregnancy that it was judged improper for her to go out.

As she had not given me the least intimation that she should be glad to see me, that my father-in-law would not permit her to see me. Word was brought that she was in labour, and desired to see me, I went out immediately, and upon coming to the house found all the servants in tears. Not daring to ask them any questions in relation to the cause of their concern, I was going towards her apartment, when a woman came up to me, and with a violent shriek cried, alas, madam, your mother is no more. It is impossible for me to describe what I felt at that time; let it be sufficient to say that a wonderful affection for her took place in my mind; all the injuries she

she had done me; the suspicions that my father had intimated with respect to her behaviour, and her want even of common decency at his death, all this, I say, vanished out of my mind, and I remembered only the tenderness she had shewn me in my younger years. I was in short extremely affected; my nurse, who had lived in the family some time, took me in a manner by force into the coach that had conducted me thither, and bid it drive to Miss Byron's.

This new misfortune refreshed the remembrance of my old ones. My father-in-law, in order to make sure of a considerable sum of money, had consented to the sacrificing my mother to save the child. It was now highly necessary that a division of the



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money should be made; they could not lay the least claim to my benevolence; however, out of respect to my mother's memory, I yielded up all that they wanted.

Time indeed got the better of my concern on my mother's account, and I must own that it was not long: my tenderness for lord Bruce, which prevailed over every sentiment, made me find a comfort in the consideration that I was now at liberty and could dispose of myself, besides that another incident, which happened just at that time, took off my thoughts another way.

Sir Harry Bouvery had lost his father a few days before the death of my mother; he was really in love with me, and continued

tinued his pretensions, notwithstanding the several rebuffs that I had given him: love however had produced the effect in him which it always does when it is sincere; I mean, it had taught him to leave off all those finical airs which denominate a man a coxcomb. As soon as his father's death had left him at large to dispose of himself in what manner he thought proper, he came and offered me his fortune and person. Miss Byron and colonel M ——— pressed me mightily to accept of the offer.

Bouvery was just such a one as my father would have approved of (said they) had he been alive; you wanted just such a man, continued they, to save you from the weakness, and I

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may almost say from the shame of marrying such a man as lord Bruce, who was banished from his native country, and to every useful purpose cut off from society.

I am 'then (replied I) his only support, and you press me to forsake him. But why should I behave in that manner? Does his misfortunes prove him any ways to be guilty? I would go and live with him even in a wilderness.

This last thought, which proceeded from the tenderness of my sentiments, rooted itself deeply in my heart, on account of the pleasure I felt at finding myself capable of an action which seemed to have so much generosity for its basis. From that very moment,

I

I resolved to go and meet him ; both Miss Byron's and the colonel's persuasions to the contrary were wholly ineffectual. In consequence of this Sir Harry Bouvery was immediately dismissed.

A whole month had elapsed since my having received any letter from lord Bruce, I began to suspect that he had heard of Sir Harry's paying his addressee to me, and had grown jealous of it ; the impatience I felt to go and justify my conduct increased my earnestness to go and meet him. I had soon made the necessary preparation for my journey. I sat out with my maid, whom as I have already said I had gained over entirely to my interest, for a place that contained what I valued more than every thing besides.



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As soon as we got to Dover, Panny and I put on men's cloaths, as I was tall and well made this disguise suited me well enough. Indeed I think I looked handsomer than ever; however as I was very young the delicacy of my complexion did not betray me in the least.

After an easy passage to Holland, and a quick conveyance from thence in postchaises, we arrived at Frankfort about eight o'clock one Evening. Our post boy directed us to a French woman's who let lodgings. I was scarce got into my apartment before I enquired after lord Bruce; indeed I had made extraordinary haste in order to be able to reach Frankfort that night. Truly said she I just met him in the  
said

street going into a house with madam, — and then added in the same breath, really he is a very affectionate husband.

Without my asking any questions, she ran on very glibly as those kind of people usually do and told me all that she knew in relation to lord Bruce. And indeed to say the truth I was very far from being able to make any enquiries, the names of husband and wife, with which she had interlarded her discourse pretty frequently, had taken from me all power of utterance. My maid who was more composed, took this care upon her, and accordingly was informed that lord Bruce had picked up his wife while in prison, that she had exposed her father's life (who was the gaoler) and her own, in order to save him,

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him, and that in return lord Bruce had married her, and that she was now big with child.

During this recital, I was in a situation which is much easier to imagine than to describe. Fanny, who perceived my distress, dismissed my landlady, and thus in a great measure she left me at liberty. He no longer loves me then said I, (shedding at the same time tears very plentifully) and what have I done to deserve such a treatment. I have exposed my reputation, and quitted my native country, and all this for one who is ungrateful in return. But tell me Fanny continued I, do you believe that he can behave in so base a manner, do you believe that he has entirely forgot me. This then is the reason that I have not heard from him so long. I imagined that he was jealous, but alas

alas I find that I have too much  
reason to be of myself.

I spent the whole night in talking after this manner. I was very desirous of seeing him, in order to reproach him for his ingratitude, to try to work upon him by my tears, and then to take leave of him for ever. I had some thoughts too of conveying the bills of exchange to him that I had brought. My main design was to make myself regretted by him. This was the only vengeance that it was in my power to take. My maid who had no notion of any such delicate point of honour opposed this resolution, and made me keep in spite of my own inclinations to the contrary, the remainder of the money that my father had put into my hands. There was no time to be lost in consulting what was to be done. By returning



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turning immediately to London, there was a possibility of concealing the imprudent step I had taken: My maid laid before me the necessity of a speedy return. I was as sensible of this as she was, but then how to resolve to quit my lord Bruce whom I loved so sincerely, and in quest of whom I had come so far, in defiance of all order and decency whatsoever. How could I resist the curiosity of seeing my rival, in order to discover whether she was really in the situation in which she had been represented to me. My landlady without enquiring into the motives of my curiosity carried me to a church which all the people of fashion used to frequent. I placed myself there in such a manner that I could have a distinct view of every body that came in. I remained there for some time in the utmost doubt and anxiety.

At

At last the person that I wanted to see appeared. I found her but too likely to have seduced my lord by her captivating air. My jealousy was so far from extenuating her charms in the least, that they seemed to be heightened by it, in order to increase my vexation. I think I may say truly I never saw so regular a beauty. She was turning her head back every now and then, to see (as I imagined) whether lord Bruce was following her; nor was I deceived in my conjectures, for he came in soon after, she whispered him to which he replied by a smile, which threw me also into despair.

As I was but a little way off from them, he soon perceived me, and having looked at me very steadfastly for some time, I imagined I perceived him sighing. He then examined me again, and immediately

mediately went out of church. Had I been able I should have most undoubtedly followed him, but I felt on a sudden such a tremor all over me, that I was obliged to stay where I was. What reflections did I not make upon what had happened; I did not doubt in the least, but that he had discovered who I was, I could not determine whether he had quitted the church through the shame of appearing before me after the base treachery he had been guilty of, or through the apprehensions which he had entertained of my reproaching him. I felt at that time, that the slightest apology would have induced me to forget all. Indeed I almost went so far as to think myself in fault. This may perhaps appear strange, but it can only seem so to those who have never

never experienced the passion of love.

The odium thrown on my reputation, the treacherous returns which had been made to my tenderness, and this marriage of Lord Bruce's which was an insuperable impediment in my way, all this I say, made little or no impression upon me at this time. It was wholly swallowed up in my concern for being no longer beloved. I was willing however to have the bitter comfort of weeping before him. I ordered my maid to go in search of him, and to make use of her utmost endeavours to bring him to me. She did not find him at home, though she called several times; at last we heard that he had mounted his horse at the church door, but nobody knew which way he was gone.

When



When once people are in misfortunes all those around them grow saucy and impertinent; my maid, who had been the most submissive creature in the world before, now spake to me with an air of authority. Without paying the least regard to my entreaties to stay at Frankfort a few days longer, she in a manner constrained me to set out that minute, and in order to save my reputation if possible hurried me almost to death.

It was not long before I found myself returned, and in the arms of my dear Miss Byron. My quick return, and the concern I was under made her conclude that lord Bruce was dead.

The comfort which she endeavoured to give on this occasion, soon disclosed to me her thoughts.

I had not sufficient strength to undeceive her. Indeed I was ashamed to tell her that I had been betrayed; I felt a great reluctance in giving Miss Byron so disadvantageous a character of Lord Bruce, and representing him in so different a light from what he had hitherto appeared in. And yet, notwithstanding this reluctance, it was absolutely necessary to tell her the whole.

Her surprize and indignation was beyond all description, nor could she forbear pitying me, for still retaining any favourable sentiments of one who had used me so ungratefully. Do not, said I, be so severe against an unhappy wretch; perhaps he used his utmost endeavours to be constant. The more, replied Miss Byron, you seek to extenuate his guilt, the more odious you make him. You may  
not

not perhaps believe me when I assure you, that a great part of your present concern is upon his account. I could wish that you would endeavour to dissipate your grief. These dissipations which I was advised to seek out for came at length of their own accord, my father-in-law, who by reason of his extravagance was in continual want of money, and who did not scruple, provided he got it, what means he made use of, refused to stand to the agreement that had been made. We were obliged therefore to go to law. The indignation which I felt against him, (for I considered him as one main cause of all my misfortunes) made me carry on the suit with much more spirit than I should otherwise have done.

Although beauty is not always productive of love, yet it seldom  
fails

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fails of interesting men in its behalf. Mine gave me free access to the judges by whom my cause was to be determined, and particularly made a great impression on the chief justice.

On the third or fourth visit that I made him, he promised that he would do me all the service in his power, and desired that I would leave the papers which contained my pretensions, and which had been drawn up by my attorney, with him. Do not, said he upon my going away, be afraid of being obliged by one who desires no other return for having served you, than the satisfaction of having done it.

Miss Byron did not look upon this affair in so serious a light as I did. What would you have me do? said I to her. I would have



have you make him, replied she, the executioner of your vengeance; and you may if you like it, amuse yourself with his passion. Alas! she was very far from conjecturing what was in reality the case; instead of adding to my happiness, he became, in a great measure the cause of my succeeding misfortunes. The chief justice, under pretence of business, used to send for me very frequently. His assiduity and attention to me, instead of producing the effects that he intended, had quite contrary ones. Thus would I often say to myself, Bruce flattered and then betrayed.

These reflections ended generally in tears. Miss Byron used frequently to chide me for my weakness. How can you, said she, preserve tenderness for a man, whom it is impossible for you to esteem? Esteem, replied I, is not the

the parent of love, but only serves to justify it to ourselves; I must own I have no excuse for my weakness, but what can I do, I cannot possibly help it. After some time, the colonel and Miss Byron explained themselves more fully. My law suit had been determined in my favour by the chief justice, who still continued his visits, notwithstanding there was now no pretence for his so doing. I would fain have had the colonel intimate this to him, but he told me, that the chief justice had given him a very different commission, no other than that of asking my consent to marry him. Miss Byron closed in immediately with this proposal, urging that my youth and beauty exposed me to dangers which I should then be secure from, and that my father-in-law, enraged at his disappointment, might endeavour to torment me. She told me

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me when we were alone, that I ought to be apprehensive of myself. Were Bruce to return to morrow, I verily believe, said she, you would pardon him. Well then, said I, I will retire into the country and live by myself. What! replied she, will you bury yourself alive, because a villian has used you ill? Believe me, my dear, you would soon be tired of your solitude: I have often promised to give you an account of the misfortunes that induced me to come here. I am the more ready to do it, as the recital may prove of service to you. You will at least find, that there are much greater misfortunes to be met with than those you have hitherto experienced. As this story made great impresson on me, I wrote it down, and I am glad of an opportunity to lay it before the reader in the ensuing chapters.

C H A P.

C H A P. IX.

*The History of Miss Byron.*

M I S S Byron when six years old was put to a very considerable boarding school at Chelsea, a kind of tutoress who attended her thither, put into Mrs. Brown's hands (for that was the schoolmistress's name) a pretty large sum of money in order to take care of her education, telling her at the same time that she was the daughter of a gentleman of fortune in the country, who had a great many children; this governess having agreed with the mistress that she should be a parlour boarder took her leave. Lady Betty B---, eldest daughter to the duke of A--- was there at the same time, and being about Miss Byron's age, there was a great friendship contracted between them. They were brought up, however, with very dif-

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ferent



ferent expectations, Lady Betty was  
 was born to a very considerable fortune,  
 whilst Miss Byron's utmost  
 hopes were confined to live retired in  
 the country.

Their younger years were spent  
 in the amusements of little business,  
 proper for children of that age. Lady  
 Betty contented with that superiority  
 which her rank of fortune gave  
 her over the rest, seemed to have a  
 great friendship for Miss Byron; envy  
 at each other's beauty, which is so  
 commonly the cause of dissensions between  
 young people, did not give the  
 least interruption to their happiness,  
 nor indeed was there much ground  
 for it as yet, Miss Byron's features  
 were not formed, and therefore it  
 was matter of doubt whether she  
 would be beautiful or no. Miss Byron  
 who had great notions of gratitude,  
 made all the returns in her  
 power, to the marks of lady Betty's  
 esteem,

esteem, but this was but of short continuance, for lady B--- was sent for home, and taken away intirely from school in a very little time. about two years afterwards, the duchess of A---and her daughter in their return to town from the country, stopped at a little summer-house they had at Fulham; Chelsea being in their neighbourhood, put lady Betty in mind of her old friend, and thereupon she determined to go and see her.

Miss Byron's beauty was by that time come to its full height, lady Betty was quite astonished at it, and indeed found her too beautiful to be able to continue her esteem. However she received her with the same affability as usual, and gave her an account of every thing that had happened since their last interview; and this not so much out of confidence, as to set before her the magnificence

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in which she had lived, which Miss Byron could never have any hopes of arriving at; you may be sure she did not forget to mention her lovers, this in some measure compensated for her inferior beauty. Amongst these, Sir Theophilus Cary was the man that she spoke of the most favourably; she represented him as one of the most amiable men in the world, however my dear, said she, I am in the wrong to talk of these things to you, who have hitherto had no experience, and who perhaps never will have any such delights as these are. They had several more conversations upon this subject, during the short time that Lady Betty staid at Fulham, in a few days the duchess and her daughter set out from thence, and left Miss Byron at her boarding school.

Young as Miss Byron was, her friend's conversation made a great deal of impressiion upon her; she longed  
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to see the world, and to be in that continual dissipation of visits and amusements, which had been represented to her, as the height of all happiness. Mrs. Brown's own sister, who had lived in the house with her for some time, and taken upon herself part of the management of the school, happened some time after to be obliged to go to London to stay for some time on very important business. As Miss Byron was a great favourite of hers, she found no great difficulty in persuading her to go along with her. They had not proceeded above half way of their intended journey, before the vehicle in which they were in, broke down. Sir William Mangey happening to come by just at this time, in his equipage, very politely offered them a place in his, which after some consideration they very thankfully accepted.



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Miss Byron who had hardly ever stirred out of the boarding school, said but little, but that little was sensible and well judged. The simplicity of her air and address, added to her own native beauty, made an entire conquest of Sir William, who by his continual assiduities, and obliging expressions, endeavoured to make her understand the impression she had made; but all this was lost upon her; she was wholly a stranger to the language of love, and her heart felt no emotions in favour of Sir William.

Mrs. Brown who was extremely attentive to every thing that could concern her favourite, was much pleased with this discovery. Sir William's addresses seemed to her to be paving the way for her happiness. Upon their coming to London, he desired leave to be admitted to see her frequently. When he had taken his

leave, you see my dear, said Mrs. Brown, what a genteel well bred man Sir William is, he bears a very good character in the world; from the little I have seen of his behaviour, he seems to have taken a great liking for you, and indeed, I doubt not in the least, but that his designs are honourable. I must own to you replied Miss Byron, that supposing he should make any serious proposal to me, our situations in my opinion are too unequal to admit of much happiness, and I would by no means be indebted for mine to an uncertainty, about which I should be continually apprehensive.

Mrs. Brown laughed at Miss Byron's delicacy, and prevailed on her at length to receive Sir William's addresses. She had no great inclination for him, but, however, she esteemed him; and as this was a

point which no one else had ever gained in her heart, she behaved towards him in such a manner as not to leave him altogether without some hopes. It was just about the time of the present king's marrying, Miss Byron went with Mrs. Brown to court, to see the balls that were given upon that occasion: most of the ladies were dressed out, to use the modern phrase, as fine as hands could make them; Miss Byron alone was in a plain undress, but this simplicity contributed to the setting her off the more, and made her beauty more remarkable. Lord Charles M--, youngest son to the duke of R-----, who was accidentally just by the place where she stood, was quite amazed on beholding her; he walked backwards and forwards several times, and gazed on her each time with new satisfaction.

Nor

Nor was Miss Byron herself an unconcerned spectator, she had observed Lord Charles, and being charmed with his air and address, her heart had almost instantaneously declared in his favour. My Lord went up to lady A—, the person with whom Mrs. Brown had come, and enquired who that beauty was, and on hearing her name, and that she in some measure belonged to the company he was with, came to her, and asked her, how she liked the company; Mrs. Brown who perceived her favourite embarrassed at being accosted by a man to whom she was intirely a stranger, relieved her from her anxiety, by mixing in the conversation; during which time, however, Lord Charles had opportunity of saying numberless little things, which declared pretty plainly the impression that Miss Byron had made upon him.



After he had handed them into their coach, he went immediately to lady A—'s to get a more particular information concerning miss Byron. Lady A— gave him an account of all that she had heard of Mrs. Brown, not forgetting the address of Sir William Mangey. I am of opinion, replied lord Charles, that she only permits Sir William to visit her thro' complaisance, and that she has no great matter of inclination for him. I see very well replied my lady what you are thinking of, if however you would take my advice, you would never see Miss Byron any more. I have said my lord, seen too much of her already, not to desire to continue my visits: from that very moment he visited at Mrs. Brown's as often as Sir William, and they soon came to discover that they were rivals to each other; their characters were in a great measure very opposite; Sir William notwithstanding the many foibles he

he was guilty of, determined at all events to conceal them from the knowledge of the world, and by that means, his reputation was clear and unspotted; while on the contrary, my lord cared but little what people thought of him, and indeed thought it mean to impose upon the world, and make that pass for a life of innocence and good conduct, which he could not but be sensible was the very reverse; he did what he thought was his duty, and then left people to judge of it in what manner they thought proper. He was the most amiable man in the world whenever he pleased, but he only appeared in that light to those whom he had a regard for.

Miss Byron felt a great prepossession in his favour, but as she thought it absolutely necessary to dissemble for a time; she received him much more coolly than his rival: this indifference

difference affected him very sensibly. Is it possible, said he to her one day, that the situation in which I am, which prevents me from offering you a fortune of which I have not as yet the disposal; is it possible, I say, that this situation can be pleasing, no madam, you would throw me into despair; I assure you, were you to refuse my proposals, and yet alas I have too much reason to fear that this would be the case, were I put in the ballance with Sir William. Miss Byron was not on her guard in the least against Lord Charles's reproaches, she therefore only consulted her own latent inclinations, and therefore throwing off all manner of reserve, surely said she, you can never think that he would have the preference. The satisfaction which immediately shewed itself in Lord Charles's countenance on receiving this assurance, convinced her but too plainly of what she had been saying.

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She was immediately ashamed, which my lord took care to increase by a profusion of thanks. He flattered himself that he had gained a great point, and did not therefore want to lengthen out a conversation with which he found Miss Byron so cruelly embarrassed.

She reproached herself when alone for the encouragement she had given. I am now at last become, said she, what I was always apprehensive of, no less than a coquet. I have two lovers, and have given them both very flattering expectations. How shall I ever be able to see them both together after what I have done? and how can I manage matters with Sir William, when I have assured another person, that if they come in competition, he should have the preference? Women of the most worthless characters, have begun just by taking such steps as I have. In order  
to



to remedy this, and prevent my going greater lengths, I must give over all thoughts of either, and return home to school, which if it does not contribute to mend my fortune, will at least save my reputation. Miss Byron was in this situation, and intended to lay her distress before Mrs. Brown, when she beheld lady Betty B. her former acquaintance, come into her room. After the first salutations and complements were over, they enquired into what had happened to each other since their last interview.

Miss Byron was not vain enough to boast of her conquests, and indeed just at this time was so dissatisfied with herself, that she did not feel the least inclination to mention them; she only told her in general, that Mrs. Brown had taken her with her to town for a little while, and that she should return to Chelsea very soon. I must beg of you,

you, replied lady Betty, to stay till my wedding is over. As I am going to marry my lover, I should be very willing that you should share my satisfaction. What, said miss Byron, is Sir Theophilus Cary to be the happy Man? He has deceived me, replied lady Betty, by assuming a false name, his real one being lord Charles M.D. Indeed he himself knows nothing of the matter, but his father and mine have agreed upon the match, and we are accordingly come to town on purpose to compleat it. Had lady Betty observed Miss Byron's countenance on receiving this intelligence, she could not have failed of suspecting that something more than ordinary was the matter. And indeed, a cruel stroke it was to find that the very person to whom she had been owing her weakness, had been taking all this pains only to deceive her. It

It was, however, absolutely necessary for her to conceal her present disorder, being determined to quit London on the morrow; she nevertheless promised Lady Betty that she would stay till her wedding was over. As soon as this visit, which had occasioned her so much uneasiness, was ended, she shut herself into her apartment, but was scarce got thither before Mrs. Brown came in. I had great reason, said she, my dear, to rejoice at your good fortune, for Sir William Mangey has been here, and just told me, that he will very readily marry you, and that he shall think himself too happy if you will please to be indebted to him for the rank and fortune that you will enjoy. You do not make me any answer, continued Mrs. Brown, after waiting some time, what, can you make any hesitation at so generous a proposal? I ought not to hesitate, replied Miss Byron,

Byron, and yet I cannot help owning that I do. The great objection I have to it is the inequality that there is between Sir William and myself. The more I am convinced of my duty to be grateful, the more apprehensive of my failure in this respect. Surely, replied Mrs. Brown, you need not fear, when your affections are only required to compleat the happiness of a man, whom you already esteem; but perhaps you would not hesitate so much if Lord Charles had made the proposal.

Alas! madam, said Miss Byron, do not wrong me so much, Lord Charles never loved me in reality, for Lady Betty has just been telling me that she is going to be married to him. Well then, said Mrs. Brown, punish his treachery by giving your hand to Sir William. This idea of revenge seemed to please Miss Byron very well; notwithstanding the persuasion she



she was in of lord Charles's affection for lady Betty, yet she did not doubt in the least, but that her marrying Sir William would be a considerable mortification, besides, that by this means she would be more on a par with lady Betty than she had hitherto been, and above all, Sir William's generous proposals reproached her for the unjust preference she had given elsewhere, and disposed her to think more favourably in his behalf. However, before she came to any determination, she resolved to lay before him the objections which occurred to her. You know, said she, my fortune is by no means equal to what you might expect, the world will be apt to talk, I flatter myself indeed, that my behaviour would make you some compensation, but then it will be a slow one, in the mean time you will be exposed to many disagreeable rubs, people will not dare to congratulate you on your marriage,

marriage, and their silence will be a reproach. In short you will not be so happy as you imagine.

Why should not I, replied Sir William, it is true indeed that I endeavour after happiness, but I am at the same time doing a very laudable action in sharing my fortune with the person whom I esteem the most in the world. The most virtuous actions, replied Miss Byron, lose much of their merit, when love is the sole motive; however, in order to try ourselves, let us stay some time, and if at the end of some months we are both of the same mind, it will then be time enough to determine; in the mean time, I will return to Chelsea. No madam, said Sir William, I can never consent to your absence; what signifies what the world, which you seem so apprehensive of, thinks of our marriage; you alone are sufficient to make me happy, and were

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it a fitter match in the eyes of the publick, I should perhaps esteem you less.

He had scarce said this, when who should come into the Room but Lord Charles; Miss Byron was too haughty to seem in the least affected with his behaviour, and therefore she received him in the same manner as before; but his composure and sedateness, so thoroughly disconcerted her, that she was no longer able to keep up the gaiety which she had hitherto affected.

Sir William Mangey went out almost as soon as Lord Charles came in, and Miss Byron got up in a little while after, saying aloud, that she was going to pay a visit to Lady Betty B—: what she is an acquaintance of yours, said my lord? yes, replied Miss Byron, I have known her from a girl, and I assure you that she ne-

ver

ver observed the least ceremony or reserve with me in her life; and I can assure you, replied my lord in a whispering tone of voice, that she has. Miss Byron was unwilling to enter into any conversation with my lord, and therefore pretended not to hear him, but went out. On coming to Lady Betty's, she was told that the duke her father was exceedingly ill, and that Lady Betty did not see company, which disappointment did not vex Miss Byron in the least.

As soon as she had talked over matters with Mrs. Brown, they both agreed to return home immediately, Lady Betty's marriage was an additional reason for Miss Byron's departure, accordingly she set out on the morrow, and Mrs Brown was to make an excuse for her going so suddenly. Sir William was not long before he visited her at Chelsea, and was continually giving her undoubted proofs of



of his affection. She was affected with them, but never thought of making any returns. Lord Charles was still uppermost in her mind; she called to mind his last whisper, and then fancied that lady Betty was not so much beloved as she had imagined; and what signifies, would she say to herself, whether she is beloved or not, let it be how it will, I ought never to see my lord any more, and am greatly to blame in not resolving against it. In the mean time Sir William's passion seemed rather to be increased than diminished; Mrs Brown was prevailed upon at length by his intreaties, and by the great desire which she herself had of seeing Miss Byron well settled, and it was agreed that they should be married, but that the wedding should be kept a secret for some time.

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This design was accordingly put into execution; Miss Byron did not leave Chelsea without a good deal of regret. I cannot bear, said Mrs. Brown to her, to see you so melancholy; in order to make you sensible of your happiness, give me leave to tell you lady Betty's disappointment. Lord Charles, after having courted her for some time, forsook her just as every thing was got ready for their being married. Lady Betty is inconsolable, and to make the misfortune still greater, lord Charles has fought a duel on another woman's account, with a friend of his who had formerly saved his life. Although he is very dangerously wounded, the duke of R—— refuses to see him, and vows he will never give him a single shilling. In short, he is entirely ruined. He seemed once to have taken a liking to you, and indeed I believe you did not dislike him; consider  
then

then how much you are indebted to Sir William for saving you from a danger to which you would otherwise have been exposed.

Lord Charles's behaviour had so irritated Miss Byron both against him and herself, for having ever given him the preference, that her esteem for Sir William increased considerably. He came to meet them according to appointment, and seemed, if possible, more enamored than before. Mrs. Brown was a little out of order when he came, but her disorder seemed so trifling, that they did not doubt in the least but she would soon be well; her fever, however, on the morrow and the following days rose to such a height, that they began to be in despair of her life. As soon as she was sensible of the danger she was in, she called Sir William and Miss Byron to her bedside: my death said she, to the former, will deprive  
Miss

Miss Byron of the assistance she might otherwise have expected from my friendship, but I leave her a better friend in you than I could have possibly been. I could have wished to have been an eye witness of your union and happiness.

I hope better things, replied Sir William, however, what you desire may be immediately complied with, provided you madam, continued he, addressing himself to Miss Byron, will please to reward the sincerest affection that man ever felt. Miss Byron was wavering in her resolutions, when Mrs. Brown's authority interposed, and turned the scale in Sir William's favour; they accordingly sent for the minister of the Parish, and were married. Miss Byron was so affected with the engagement she had entered into, and so oppressed with grief at Mrs. Brown's illness that she fainted away merely through weakness.

I

She



She was carried up to her room, and put to bed, whether Sir William soon repaired in order to comfort her. In the mean time Mrs. Brown seemed to be growing better, but alas it was only seeming for in a few days all hopes of her recovery were given over, she desired earnestly, to speak with Miss Byron (now lady Mangey) in private. You must, said she to her, return to my sister's, and there stay till it is thought proper to make known your marriage. You may safely intrust her with the secret, and as I know she has a great regard for you, you may rely on her discretion.

Mrs. Brown did not live many hours after this, and left Miss Byron inconsolable for her loss. Sir William took her immediately out of the house and carried her to the deceased's eldest sister, the schoolmistress. The first days after she came thither, were spent in little else besides lamenting her

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her deceased friend. But when her concern subsided a little, her situation, on which she had not thought for some time, began to surprize her, and accordingly she spoke to Mrs. Brown, her late mistress of it. I dare say, replied she, that Sir William will keep his word, but as there is a possibility of his failing, and as he sees you every day, you may take an opportunity without implying the least distrust, of desiring him to determine what is to be done. Miss Byron's biggness, which she came sensible of about that time, induced her to desire that the marriage might be owned as soon as possible. Sir William seem'd in raptures on hearing that Miss Byron was big with child, he assured her that he would go and speak to a friend of his at court about it, for fear otherwise as he had one or two good employments under the government, it might do him a prejudice.

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You know your own affairs best, said Miss Byron, but pray consider that every moment you delay, you expose my reputation the more. Can you doubt, replied Sir William, but that your reputation is as dear to me as it is to yourself, a very few days shall convince you of my regard for your welfare. Miss Byron being persuaded of Sir William's sincerity, beheld his absence without reluctance, not doubting but that he'd come according to his promise. He came indeed, but she perceived on his return to great an alteration in his behaviour that it gave her a good deal anxiety. What is the matter Sir, said she, pray what misfortune has befallen you which you seem so willing to conceal from me. Ah do not wrong me in that manner continued she, I should be much more willing to share your calamities, than to bear a part in your prosperity. Sir William sighed very deeply, but could not bring himself to

to say a syllable. Speaks to me, Sir said she, and prove the truth of what you have so frequently told me, that I was your only happiness. I continue to say the same, replied Sir William, at last, but may I depend upon the sincerity of your affection.

How can you doubt it in the least, said Miss Byron, do you forget that you are speaking to your wife. But continued Sir William, do you love me sufficiently to submit to what would be otherwise unreasonable did not the situation of my affairs make it absolutely necessary. My friend to whom I intended to reveal my marriage, has offered me his sister, had I told him that I was already engaged, I should have ruined myself entirely, all that I was able to do, was to desire time to consider it. As to your laying in you need not be under any manner of concern, I will take care that it shall be private, and in or-

der



der to avoid all suspicions that might otherwise arise, I will come to see you but seldom.

Surely, Sir William, replied Miss Byron, you can never behave to me in this manner, you can never expose your wife to the disgrace of a private lying-in, and by that means render your child's legitimacy questionable, no, I have your word of honour as a pledge to the contrary. I own, said Sir William, that I have given my word; but you yourself have laid an insuperable objection in the way to my keeping it. I cannot help calling to mind what you have said frequently to me with respect to the world's opinion about my marriage, and as I have hitherto been honoured with its approbation, I am determined to preserve it.

Are you afraid, replied Miss Byron, of the censure of the world, and do

you

you not fear breaking through the most solemn engagements. Consider that I looked upon you as a man of honour, and trusted you as such. Can you then resolve to forfeit that title in order to enjoy the credit of a good name which you would no longer deserve in reality. But alas I am no longer the object of your esteem, and can therefore have no hopes of influencing you. But will your tender offspring which I am now ready to bring forth, have no effect, are you determined that it shall be born to infamy and indigence. Assure me that you will take care of the child, and then however you may treat its unfortunate mother she will never reproach you. Sir William could not behold the woman whom he had been so fond of, in so deplorable a situation, without being moved, he endeavoured to calm her uneasiness by giving her hopes, and making very considerable offers. How can you dare replied Miss Byron

to make me such mean proposals  
 : What can you offer that shall be  
 : worthy myself? You yourself only  
 : seemed so because I thought you vir-  
 : tuous; but have you continued the, well  
 : weighed in your mind the horrors of  
 : an evil conscience, and have you com-  
 : pared the difference between my for-  
 : mer and my present opinion of your  
 : behaviour? I feel this horror said Sir  
 : William but too sensibly, but not-  
 : withstanding all this, I cannot resolve  
 : to comply with your desires. Neither  
 : can I replied Miss Byron bear any  
 : longer the sight of one who has so  
 : basely deceived me. Enjoy then if  
 : you can that reputation which is by  
 : no means your due, whilst I with in-  
 : tegrity shall share the shame and re-  
 : proach that belongs only to guilt. As  
 : soon as she had said this she went into  
 : her closet and shut herself in, while  
 : Sir William took his horse and rode  
 : off to London.

to make me such mean proposals  
Mrs. Brown being surprized at his  
sudden departure and not seeing Miss  
Byron, went out in quest of her. The  
situation which she found her in in-  
formed her but too plainly of the mis-  
fortune that had happen'd, and she be-  
haved like a person that was striving with  
despair. An Adonis said she, I am  
forsaken, betrayed, and dishonour'd by  
the basest of men. O Mrs. Brown! be-  
ing alarm'd at the tidings of this mis-  
fortune, she endeavour'd to call in and comfort  
her if possible. Mr. Brown, who was  
too hasty, said she, Sir, William  
still loves you, and will never be able  
to behold your distress unmoved, be-  
sides he will be apprehensive that his  
own reputation may suffer by the af-  
fair. Alas, madam, reply'd Miss By-  
ron, he has already beheld my distress  
unmoved. And who was there else  
that could reproach him with his base-  
ness. Your worthy sister is dead, and  
as for the minister he has gained him



-breast to his interest, as well as the two  
-people who were witnesses to the  
-marriage.

In a few days afterwards the wrote :  
-But after all said Mrs. Brown, you  
-may depend upon my friendship and  
-your own integrity. You shall stay  
-with me as long as you please, and we  
-will use our utmost endeavours to con-  
-sider your misfortune. Miss Byron  
-continued weeping without saying a  
-syllable, at length she was prevailed  
-on by the force of Mrs. Brown's in-  
-terest, and the hopes that she gave  
-her of Sir William's return to his du-  
-ty, to be somewhat more composed.  
-His return, replied she, will do me lit-  
-tle good, for how can I esteem him  
-after so base a behaviour, surely I was  
-doomed, would she say to herself, to be  
-the dupe of fraud and treachery, Lord  
-Charles's behaviour ought to have gi-  
-ven me a distrust of every one else.  
-She then gave Mrs. Brown an account  
-of the passion that he had pretended  
-for

for her, while he was paying his addresses to Lady Betty at the same time.

In a few days afterwards, she wrote to Sir William in a very moving manner, Mrs. Brown wrote to him likewise and informed him that Miss Byron was in a very dangerous situation, she sent them by a messenger with orders to deliver them into Sir William's own hands. You may judge with what anxiety and impetuosity Miss Byron waited for an answer. She was alone one day in her apartment, when word was brought her that there was a man below with a letter that wanted to see her. She went down immediately, and taking the letter, went back to read it without perceiving that the person had followed her. But how great was her surprise when after reading a few lines she discovered that it came from Lord Charles. Heaven, said she, my Lord is desirous of continuing his debt, no madam.

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Madam, I replied to the person who brought the letter, and who, on throwing off his disguise, proved to be no other than Lord Charles himself, I do not want to deceive you, I adore you, and am come to lay at your feet my fortune which I have now at my command, finding him merely imagined. What you have as a mixture of surprize and anxiety, and above all the recollection of her own misfortune, which this incident rendered more affecting, deprived her both of the power of speaking and of looking at Lord Charles. Will you not vouchsafe me one look, said my lord, I thought the reading of my letter had affected you, you had the same opinion of my behaviour to Lady Betty as the rest of the world, I am quite careless of their judgments, but I cannot consider yours by any means with the same degree of indifference. Hear me I beseech you, continued my lord, and let me endeavour

*The Unfortunate Beauty* offer

deavour at least to get the better of  
those prejudices, which wrong one  
do exceedingly. His justification was  
wholly useless with respect to Miss  
Byron in her present situation, but  
the natural inclination she felt for him,  
made her feel some satisfaction at not  
finding him so guilty as she had for-  
merly imagined. What you have  
to say, replied she, with neither Af-  
fect you nor me, but you may tell  
it me if you please, and Montagu said  
Lord Charles, is not always the best  
policy as you will see by the account  
I am going to give you. You have  
heard I dare say, of my breaking off  
with Lady T., the occasion of which  
was her owning to me, that the Duke  
of P. and she were in love with each  
other, but that as she could not bring  
herself to disobey her father, she de-  
sired I would break off the marriage.  
I could not surely help but comply-  
ing with her request. It was just  
about the time, of the late war on  
Flanders,



Blunders, I went over with some troops, and under a notion of distinguishing myself, exposed my life to great danger, and should in all probability have been killed, had I not been relieved by one Captain Meslin who came to my assistance, and did not leave me till he saw me in a place of security.

This was indeed a very important piece of service, and my gratitude was proportionable, from that very hour I admitted him into my tent, and made him my companion. As the captain's birth and fortune were greatly inferior to mine, this was no disgrace to him in the least. My commendations attracted him the more I did for him, the more I thought myself obliged to do. I was ordered to go on a private expedition into France, and as it was upon business of the utmost secrecy,

was advised to assume a false name. Captain Messin very earnestly desired to accompany me. I accordingly went to Aix la Chapelle, where I met with the people I was ordered to go to. I saw the Duchess of A. and Lady Betty, who were drinking the waters at that time for their healths.

I went there under the name of Sir Theophilus Cary, and had a much more favourable reception from Lady Betty than a man who appeared in my situation could possibly expect. I flattered myself that I was agreeable to her, and that too on account of my personal qualifications. I attached myself, therefore, at first, not so much out of love as vanity; but this grew insensibly into affection, which I thought the strongest that could possibly be felt, had not my passion afterwards for you convinced me of the contrary.

As

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-As my disguise was a secret entrusted with me by the government, I did not communicate it to Lady Betty; and indeed I felt a satisfaction in thinking how agreeably it would surprize her to find in Lord Charles Mordaunt a more worthy lover than in Sir Theophilus Gawk. I staid six three months, and had the pleasure of being informed, that Lady Betty would soon come over to England; she had given me leave to entrust captain Mordaunt with our correspondence, and whenever there was any little dispute between us, he was always the person that compromised the affair. In a few days after my return hither, Lady Betty was presented at court, I enjoyed her surprize on seeing me there in such different circumstances from what she had abroad. I went to wait on her, and though she reproached me a little for having concealed my real name and quality, yet the metamorphosis was so agreeable, that

that I found no great difficulty in obtaining my pardon. I became more very assiduous in my visits; but our harmony was oftentimes disturbed by the jealousy of her temper. I was frequently tempted to throw off my chains, but the sincerity of my affection brought me back to my obedience. I so much enjoyed the pleasure of

knowing that Lady Betty would not come to see me, and that I had

**CHAP. X.**  
*Continuation of Miss Byron's Story.*

**W**HEN my own behaviour was irreproachable, then her complaints were of a very different nature; she then blamed me for not being jealous. This was so out of the way, that I could not help complaining of it to Captain Mellin; he justified Lady Betty, and told me I ought to thank her for an excess of delicacy, which I must own I did not understand. In the mean time my



my addresses to Lady Betty were talked of a good deal; every thing was agreed on very soon between our two parents; but some particular reasons obliged them to defer the marriage. As the matter however had been agreed on, I was admitted to my Lady Betty very freely, and sometimes spent whole days with her. One day as I was going into her apartment to wait for her, I heard two people coming up stairs, a desire of rallying her afterwards on my want of jealousy induced me to hide myself, which I accordingly did behind the bed. You wrong me cruelly, said Lady Betty, for it was her and another man that came in, instead of reproaching me, you are greatly indebted to me, it is true indeed that I am ambitious, but then it is not so much out of ambition that I marry him, as to ensure the continuance of our correspondence for the future. Why, replied the person

person to whom she was talking, and whom I afterwards discovered to be Mellin, why will you make him believe that you love him, and reproach him so frequently for not being jealous.

I must own, replied she, that the vanity of being beloved by him went a great way at first, and as you had not declared yourself, I began almost to think it was my duty. Let him continue to think he is beloved, and this opinion will bar off all suspicion, and the more I reproach him for want of jealousy, the more frequent opportunities. They said several other things, which gave me to understand that their correspondence had continued for some time. Lady Betty then went into her mother's apartment, and gave me an opportunity of slipping out. I went home immediately in order to consider what I should do in this affair: I could indeed

need have ruined Lady Betty, but that seemed too cruel a punishment for a crime which had not been productive of any ill consequences to me, and how could I make use of these weapons which she would not have taken up against me, had I been circumstanced in the same manner, and as to Mellin, he had saved my life, and I found it a much easier matter to forgive an injury, than to be wanting in the duty of gratitude. I determined therefore to conceal from the Duke of A--- what I had so accidentally come to the knowledge of, as to my marriage, that depended entirely on myself, and Lady Betty was become so wholly indifferent to me, that I did not feel the least inclination to reproach her.

About this time madam, I had the honour of seeing you, and then it was that the jealousy for which I had heretofore been so much blamed for

for the want of, came upon me with great violence, I mistrusted myself exceedingly, and did not doubt but that I should fail of prepossessing you in my favour. I was more apprehensive of Sir William Mangey than the rest, and though I had hitherto entirely disregarded the opinion of the world, yet I could not help affecting a secret discontent, at the public approbation with which Sir William was honoured, besides, that it was in his power to marry you publicly, while I could only offer a private wedding, which however the sincerity of my affection would by no means allow of. In the mean time Lady Betty's journey into the country, though it gave me a respite for a time, yet it plunged me at length into greater anxiety, she had prevailed on her father to hasten the marriage, and accordingly he determined to press the conclusion of it immediately on his coming to town. My

refusal



refusal exposed me to my father's resentment, I did not lay before him my reasons for so doing, had I attributed to Lady Betty's behaviour, he would not have believed me, and indeed since I had seen you, that was not the principal objection, all that I resolved upon, was to conceal if possible the impression you had made upon me.

I could not however refuse myself the pleasure of seeing you on the morrow, I was in raptures on finding myself at liberty, I was determined to shew you my joy, which was considerably abated by the cool reception you gave me, but to deal ingeniously with you, I attributed great part of your indifference to what you had said with respect to Lady Betty. This thought comforted me a little, and accordingly I determined to give you a full account of every thing that had passed between

us,

us, and went with that intention to Mrs. Brown's, but was told when I came there, that you was gone to Chelsea, I resolved to follow you thither, and had in pursuance of this resolution, made the necessary preparations. I received a note that evening from Mellin, in which he desired me to meet him the next morning at the Mary-le-bone coffee house, near Cavendish-Square, I was not naturally of a suspicious temper, but was willing to think him less guilty than I had before imagined. I concluded he designed to own what had passed, and to concert with me what measures were proper to be taken for his marrying Lady Betty.

I met him according to appointment, we walked out towards the fields, he began with great protestations of his friendship for me, and then, all of a sudden, he asked me how I could resolve to make Lady Betty

Betty so miserable, who loved me so dearly. She is apprised, continued he, of your passion for Miss Byron, and then added what you must give me leave to suppress. Had his conversation related wholly to myself, or to Lady Betty, I should not, in all probability, have taken any notice of what he had been saying; but when he spoke in such injurious terms of you, I could no longer command myself, but reproached him for the treachery, of which I had heretofore been an eye witness; Messin was so irritated at being detected in his falsehood, that he made two thrusts at me with his sword before I had time to put myself on my defence. I drew as soon as possible, and as he was coming on a third time, I disarmed him, and then said, Sir, I give you your Life, and have now repaid the obligation which you formerly conferred on me. In the mean time the wound I had received bled very plentifully,

tifully, when some people came up, and attracted by the richness of my drefs assisted me first. I was carried to a neighbouring house, the master of which I sent to Lord B--, an intimate friend of mine. The surgeons who had at first pronounced me to be in imminent danger, began, after some days, to be in hopes of my recovery.

In proportion as I gather'd strength my anxiety increas'd. Lord B--'s discretion, and the desire I had of communicating the secret to somebody, made me send for him. After a good deal of debate, we determin'd to send a servant to Chelsea, with orders to speak to you if possible. I would fain have wrote to you, but I was not able. The man whom we sent to Chelsea, brought us back word that you was removed from thence to London, at which place he had endeavour'd to get access to you, but

K

in



in vain. This news threw me almost into despair, for how could I flatter myself that the trivial kindnesses you had shewn me would counterbalance the continual care, and assiduity of my rival. O Lord I thought I was married to Lord G. - the friend he had formerly men-

Lord B-- endeavoured to comfort me, but in vain; he could not but tell me that I had reason to be apprehensive. I would fain have gone, feeble as I was, to Mrs Brown's myself; but my anxiety and the oppression that lay continually on my spirits retarded my cure. My father too fell sick just at that time; and died without granting me the forgiveness I had sued for. Messin had so irritated him against me, by telling him that I had challenged him only because he had put me in mind of my duty, that he refused to return any answer to my message. This laid me under a necessity of calling on Messin to give me satisfaction, but an affair of great consequence

consequence has obliged me to lay aside all thoughts of vengeance for the present. About three days ago, Lord B. came into my room, and acquainted me that Sir William Man-gey was married to Lord G.'s daughter, the friend he had formerly mentioned.

Miss Byron had hitherto listened to Lord Charles with emotions of concern, which she had found it very difficult to restrain; but this last piece of intelligence entirely over-  
power'd her. Lord Charles was not in a much better situation, to see Miss Byron swooning away on his rival's account. This made him experience the utmost tortures of love and jealousy; he remained for some time motionless, and then took Miss Byron in his arms to endeavour to bring her to herself. Just at the time he was calling out for help, Mrs. Brown was coming up to look for Miss Byron,

she was exceedingly surprized on finding her fainted away in the arms of a man who was an entire stranger to her. The first and principal concern was to bring Miss Byron to herself. Her swoon continued for some time, at length rolling about her eyes, she perceived Lord Charles kneeling at her feet, and holding one of her hands, which he was bedewing with his tears. Let me alone my lord, said she, drawing back her hand, your affection and concern increase my anxiety. In vain would you have me leave you, replied my lord, I must die through despair of ever hoping to to influence; but tell me, I beseech you, how my rival has deserved the preference you have given him? Am I betrayed or despised? I came with an intention to lay my fortune at your feet, but it seems you are determined to be beholden to my rival for what you might receive at a much cheaper rate from the sincerity of my passions

Miss

Miss Byron was prevented by her tears from making any reply for some time; at length, summoning up her resolution, I will soon shew you, said she, I am more unfortunate, and have more reason to complain than you. In short I am married to Sir William, my resentment against you was one main inducement to my taking this step. Now, just at the time that I stand most in need of being owned for his wife, I hear he is engaged to some other. You see, continued she, that I am, at least, worthy of your compassion, and I presume farther to assure you, that if you knew me thoroughly, I should deserve your esteem.

Yes, madam, replied Lord Charles, since it is no longer lawful for me to talk to you of love, you are highly worthy my esteem, and I will very soon give you an undoubted proof of it, by avenging you of Sir William.



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Can you esteem me, said Miss Byron, and yet resolve at the same time to avenge me of a man to whom I have plighted my troth? Alas, madam, replied my lord, you still continue to love him, and that is the only reason for your desiring to avert his punishment. I have already told you, and perhaps too plainly, the motives of my behaviour; Sir William's base behaviour does by no means excuse me from the performance of my duty; he is the father of the miserable creature that I now bear in my womb; adieu, fir, continued she, heaven will avenge me, let me therefore enjoy by myself the satisfaction of bewailing my misfortunes, without having any additional foibles to blush at.

Lord Charles, who became greatly interested for Miss Byron, thro' pity and surprize could not take his leave without the utmost reluctance. Miss Byron continued with Mrs. Brown as  
long

long as it was necessary, in order to conceal her unhappy situation. She wrote once more to Sir William, acquainting him with her having been brought to bed of a boy. She made use of every thing she could think of to excite his compassion, but it was all ineffectual; for he not only sent her no answer, but did not so much as give himself the trouble to enquire where she was. Miss Byron continued writing in a very suppliant manner as long as her child lived, which was about half a year; but as soon as he was dead, she addressed him in a very different strain from what she had formerly. The contents of her letter were as follows:

“ The death of my son has dissolved all those connections which  
“ subsisted between us; I try’d every  
“ method I could think of to make  
“ his birth legitimate, but in vain; I  
“ hope you come in time to practice

not that virtue which you hitherto affected, while, in reality, you were so guilty of the basest of crimes."

This letter was not altogether without its effects, for it not only made him repent of his behaviour, but kindled afresh in his mind, his former sentiments of affection. He had all along imagined that she would come to him again whenever he pleased.

The certainty on the other hand of being hated and despised, and the reproaches which he could not help bestowing on himself, for having lost, through his own fault, so inestimable a treasure, with the value of which he was now perfectly well acquainted, almost put him beside himself. As his marriage with Lord G——s daughter had not taken place, there was not the least impediment to his making good the engagement he had entered into with Miss Byron. He

flattered

flattered himself that the same reasons which had induced her to accept of his proposals at first, would still be of weight with her, and that she would not be displeased with the rank and fortune that he was capable of giving her.

He accordingly set out for Chelsea with a full resolution to put every method in practice, not excepting violence itself, to attain what he imagined he had so much right to. But how great was his disappointment, when he was informed by Mrs. Brown that Miss Byron was determined not to see him any more; his disorder was so great, that she could not help pitying him. For heaven's sake, said he, procure me an interview with her, for virtue will speak very strongly in my behalf. She cannot but remember the engagement she has entered into, and I am certain she would



be unwilling to expose either herself or me to the effects of my despair.

When Mrs. Brown went to her in pursuance of Sir William's desire, his treachery, replied she, has freed me from all engagements, as for his despair, I am not in the least apprehensive either of it or its effects, let him make the affair known if he dares, as for me, I shall continue where I am, and shall bear the reproach thrown on me, with less reluctance than I should the sight of a man whom I detest and despise.

This first rebuff did not discourage Sir William in the least, but finding after some time all his endeavours ineffectual, he retired to one of his country seats, and there through vexation put an end to his life and misery. Just about this time came Lord Charles, who had heard of the death of her former husband, and although

although out of respect to her commands he had forbore his visits, yet his passion remained as strong as ever; and though he had but little hopes, yet he had not reconciled himself by any means to the thought of being separated from her for ever.

He accordingly went to Chelsea, Miss Byron could not resolve to treat him in the same manner in which she had Sir William, but came into the parlour where he was waiting for her, where neither of them were able to speak for some minutes. I ought not to have seen you, said Miss Byron, at length, oh do not resist, replied Lord Charles, in so cruel a resolution. My misfortunes have obliged me, said she, to make choice of this situation, which is undoubtedly the most proper since I can no longer appear in the world with any degree of credit. Why will you, said my lord, lay down so rigid a rule for your own

own observance, and why punish yourself for Sir William's baseness. There is no great difficulty, replied Miss Byron, in retiring from the world, when the circumstances that would have made it agreeable, are intirely removed; I must own, that had I listened to my own inclinations, they would have spoken loudly in your behalf, and yet farther, all these misfortunes have come upon me through a desire of avenging myself upon you.

Let me then, replied my lord, have the honour of repairing them. Your will is sufficient, but were I capable of consenting, I should never forgive myself, were all the world ignorant of what had happened, that self consciousness would be sufficient to embitter my tranquility. But it is time to put an end to a discourse of this nature. Farewell Sir, and think of me in the manner I deserve.

As

As soon as she had said this, she went out of the room, and left my lord in a situation much more easy to be imagined than described. Mrs. Brown went to him at Miss Byron's request, in order to compose him; it was some time before he spoke, and then earnestly desired to be admitted to see Miss Byron, but all in vain, for she desired him to forget her. She continued at Chelsea in the situation above mentioned, till the time in which she was introduced to the acquaintance of the subject of these memoirs.



then informed me that the chief intelligence had already been upon that head, that he desired nothing *Conscious of Matrimonial contest, won't*  
*by the attention of as many as shall*  
*read it*

**Y**OU see, said Miss Byron, as soon as she had made an end of the narrative, that if the having experienced a number of misfortunes in the world, was a sure title to tranquillity in retirement, no one has a better claim to it than myself; I must own, however, to my shame, that I have been wavering more than once whether I should return into that busy and troublesome scene of things from whence I have now in a manner made my escape.

Since my unhappy story, said I, is but too well known in the world, marriage can only prove to me a continual source of misery. Miss Byron then

then informed me that the chief justice had already spoke her upon that head, that he desired nothing on my part but the strictest sincerity, that he considered truth to be of almost equal value to innocence, besides, said she, you have nothing to tell him that will in the least reflect upon your honour.

I was not so firmly persuaded as she was of the chief justice's moderation in this respect, I could never persuade myself that he was willing to marry a woman who had carried her disregard of decency and propriety to so great a length as I had. I flattered myself that my very confession would give him a sufficient disgust to me, and that this marriage which I looked upon with reluctance, notwithstanding the advantages with which I was sensible it would be attended, would soon be broke off.

But

But this only shewed my ignorance of the human heart, for the more unfortunate a beauty has been, the more are other people interested in her behalf. Besides that my misfortunes were only the effect of my credulity, and were therefore the more likely to get me esteem. The chief justice listened to my account with an attention which plainly shewed that he thought himself greatly interested. Whenever I treated the follies I had been guilty of in a harsher style than usual, he generally took my part, and endeavoured to give me a better opinion of myself. Any one else said he would have behaved in the same manner when under those circumstances.

I had several conversations with him of the same nature, which convinced him of my freedom and ingenuity. I was also convinced of my  
being

being beloved by him as much I could reasonably desire, that is to say, my understanding was convinced, but my heart was very far from being sensibly affected. Miss Byron and Colonel M—, were continually telling me that it was sufficient to esteem a husband, but all their arguments were ineffectual. A private messenger whom I had sent to Francfort returned about this time, and informed me that Lord Bruce's mistresses had followed him, having taken along with her the child of which she had been brought to bed, and that she had not been able to discover to what place they were gone.

This desire of concealing himself, could only be on my account, I suppose he was apprehensive of some sudden start of passion, like that which induced me to go to Francfort. I would fain have convinced that ungrateful man that he was no longer beloved



beloved by me, I imagined to myself that he would feel great remorse when once he came to know that he had lost me for ever. This it was that concealed from my view the misfortune I was going to plunge into, and extorted from me the consent, which they were continually asking of. Besides I was highly unworthy the  
 My spirits were pretty tolerable, during the few days that preceded my marriage, and though I was not merry, yet I did not betray any appearance of concern. The chief justice was overjoyed at my compliance, and testified his gratitude in such a manner, that it increased, or at least seemed to increase that which I felt. But alas, what a cruel alteration did my fatal consent produce, that consent which for ever separated me from all that I held dear, what were my thoughts on this occasion! Upon reflecting on this matter, I found myself only to blame, and acquitted  
 Lord

Lord Bruce of all adulation. There was a possibility of his returning, but by this last deed, I had taken from myself the pleasure of pardoning him, or if that should not be the case, I had at least deprived myself of the being able either to think favourably of him, or to love him without guilt. Besides I was highly unworthy the chief justice's esteem, for having given him my hand when my heart was in reality pre-engaged to another.

After having sent every one out of my room, he asked me leave to come to bed. My sighs and tears were the only answer I could make; in my present situation, said I, at length informs you but too well of the distress I am in. Take pity on my unhappy weakness, and do not force from me what if complied with would only be the effect of duty. Give me a little time to come to myself, and I doubt not but my esteem for you will

Lord

will triumph over all opposition. Do you consider, madam, replied my husband, the penance you are putting me to? He then said no more, and we both of us remained in a deep silence for some time, which I at length interrupted by asking him pardon. I ought, madam, to do that, said he, for having forced you thro' my importunity, to lay such a constraint upon yourself. I am sufficiently punished for it, continued he, but do not be apprehensive, I only desire you, and that for your sake more than my own, to conceal what has passed between us. This precaution was not necessary in the least, my behaviour appeared to me so blameable, that I was not disposed in the least to mention any thing that had happened. I spent the whole night partly in repenting of, and partly in applauding myself for what I had done.

I was sensible of the injustice I had been guilty of, but I could not help feeling a secret satisfaction at having given Lord Bruce this proof of my affection, which yet I should have been very sorry he should have known.

My husband on going out of my room in the morning, advised me to feign an indisposition, that he might retire to his apartment. This exposed me at first to a little rallery, but this soon wore off, and in a few days nobody troubled themselves about us.

I endeavoured to do every Thing I could to please my husband, excepting in the one point above mentioned. I perceived very plainly however, that he was very unhappy. I reproached myself continually for contributing to the misery of one who had only my happiness in view; and what impediment was there to the discharge of



of my duty? only a silly passion which my esteem ought long ago to have got the better of. My husband's concern, and the endeavours he used to hide it from me, excited friendship, esteem and gratitude, which together composed a sort of sentiment that I persuaded myself was love. I had already told him of my inclination for Lord Bruce, and yet, though I fancied I had got the better of it, I found myself a good deal embarrassed to acquaint him with it. We had spent the autumn, at a house at Richmond, which my husband had bought only because I had commended its situation. As it was but a little distance from London, we had company continually with us; I was often invited out, which proved a hindrance to the design I had in view, and which I wanted to hasten on account of my husband's melancholy. At length a few days before we intended to set out for London, we found

found ourselves alone. I had kept my room on account of some slight indisposition, he came into my apartment and sat himself down.

I know not, said I to him, whether you are of the same mind with me, but we have had so much company of late, that I wanted to be retired, and what shall we do, replied he, with so much time upon our hands? Then all of a sudden, continued he, must I always be unhappy, he then took hold of my hand and wetted it with his tears, nor could I without much difficulty restrain mine from flowing. Can you forgive me, said I, my husband only repayed by the most endearing caresses, which were interrupted to thank me for my obliging compliance.

Upon our return, Miss Byron, whom we used to see continually, observed with great pleasure the agreeable

greeable alteration that had taken place in my husband's appearance. Indeed I was not so overjoyed, but then I was free from that anxiety which is the constant attendant of a deviation from ones duty. In short he did every thing he could in order to make me happy, and indeed I was as much so as I could reasonably desire. My husband seemed to take fresh satisfaction in our country house, and accordingly he determined to return thither as soon the fine weather would give him leave. Some family affairs prevented me from accompanying him thither, which I had otherwise intended to have done.

The very day of his departure, the minister of the parish brought me a note, in which I was desired to come to a certain place marked in the letter, on account of an affair of the utmost importance. The minister offered to conduct me, which I very readily

ly accepted. As soon as I was come into the room to which he led me, and was got to the bedside, a person who was lying down endeavoured to raise herself up. I beg your pardon, madam, said she, in a very faint and trembling voice, for daring to appear before you, I am the unhappy creature who has been the cause of your unhappiness in a great measure; be pleased only to sooth the bitterness of my sorrows, by the generous and benevolent balm of your compassion; nay farther I beg your pity for a miserable creature that is the offspring of my guilt, but consider at the same time it is the offspring of the man you love, and that my death will soon deprive it of all hopes of assistance.

The woman's tears prevented her going on any farther. As I am naturally compassionate, I should have been greatly affected with the distress of her situation, had not a sentiment

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of jealousy wholly overwhelmed all emotions of compassion, inſomuch, that the confeſſion ſhe had been making was ſo far from exciting my pity, that it mortified my vanity.

The good clergyman, without deſigning to inform himſelf of particulars, preſſed me earneſtly to take pity on the mother and child. Neither of them replied I ſtand in any need of my aſſiſtance. Lady Bruce has a right to her huſband's protection, alas madam, replied the woman, I am not his wife, I ſee plainly you have been impoſed upon. Have patience with me a moment, and I will give you an account which however torturing it may prove to my own reflections, is matter of juſtice both to you and my lord.

CHAPTER XII.

*Love in death, an example calculated  
for surprise, rather than imitation.*

**I** AM the gaoler's daughter, my mother who died in child-bed of my brother and me, left us the only children. As we were twins, we were so exactly alike, that in order to distinguish us, some particular mark was necessary, and even when we grew up, it was no easy matter to know one from the other. Out of joke we had changed cloaths the very day that Lord Bruce was committed to prison; my father who met with me first, ordered me to go with him, and shew him the apartment that was designed for him. I perceived, as we were going to it, that his cloaths were stained with blood, upon which I enquired of him very earnestly, whether he was not wound-

ed. I felt a great satisfaction on finding that he was not, and from that instant, the nobleness and beauty of his person made a great impression on me. I now began for the first time to be sensible of the passion of love, and prevailed on my brother to let me wait on my lord instead of him. My lord falling sick, stopped the proceedings for a time, but did not diminish in the least the violence of his persecutors, and made me experience an uneasiness to which I had hitherto been a stranger.

I never stirred from the sick man, the danger he was in increased my tenderness and affection for him, at length after a long struggle, his youth and the goodness of his constitution got the better of his distemper.

Just about this time the proposal was made to my father of letting his prisoner escape for a valuable consideration.

deration. My father, who found himself very comfortable in his present situation, hesitated some time, but yielded at length to my brother's importunities and mine. I had entrusted my brother with the secret of my affection for my lord, being certain that he would do all that lay in his power to serve me.

I had indeed told him more than was true, having made him believe that I was beloved by my lord, and that he would make me his wife, as soon as he was got to a place of security. My brother was ordered to accompany my lord, but I easily prevailed on him to let me take his place. This change was the easier, as we were to set out by night, and as I was to disguise myself in mens cloaths. My brother had taken upon him to inform my father of our pretended marriage, as soon as we were sufficiently got out of his reach. I told



him that if he informed him sooner, he would speak of it to my lord, and make him think that I mistrusted his honour.

I It is impossible to describe the various emotions I felt at this time, on the one hand impatience for the happy moment, on the other apprehensions of miscarrying in our designs. The hour intended for our departure was retarded by reason of an accident which put me into most violent agitations. I had got into my lord's room and had given him his disguise, when my father came in and informed us that he had received orders to watch his prisoners more closely, which made us apprehensive that our design had been discovered. But it seems these orders were given on account of a prisoner that was to come in that night, and the bustle that this occasioned in the prison, contributed a good deal towards the furthering

thering our design. As soon as we  
got to Dover, my lord before he al-  
lighted, enquired whether there were  
any letters for him, the eagerness  
with which he read over one, which  
from the hand it was wrote in I  
concluded came from some woman,  
made me excessively uneasy. In short  
every thing conspired to inform me  
that Lord Bruce was pre-engaged.

This was the occasion of a good deal  
of anxiety; I could not help blaming  
him, for, excuse me, madam, I never  
imagined that any one had done so  
much for him as I had. My native  
country forsaken, my father and bro-  
ther exposed to the most imminent  
danger, and all upon his account.  
I oftentimes resolved to throw myself  
at his feet, and make a confession of  
him of my passion, but a remainder  
of modesty which I had not yet quite  
lost, constantly withheld me. As his  
boots had galled him extremely, he

bespoke another pair, and while they were making took the opportunity of reposing himself. Two days afterwards he sent me to the post house for his letters, and here, madam, begins the account of my treachery. I found one directed for him in the same hand as before, the other was a man's hand. My curiosity was so great that I could not forbear opening the first, but was sufficiently punished by the contents, which informed me but too plainly, that he was in love with some one else, who was deserving of his esteem. I had not as yet determined to suppress it, but the other, which I opened, confirmed me in my resolution.

It was wrote by a man who seemed as much your friend as Lord Bruce's, advising him to give you up, as it was almost impossible that you could ever be happy in each other. This last letter entirely cured me of all

all scruples which I might otherwise have had. So far from having the least remorse for what I had done, I thought I should do my Lord Bruce a great kindness by endeavouring to cure him of a passion which could not be attended with success. And in order to this, I determined to suppress all your letters, but as the other was of great Importance towards forwarding my design, I sealed it up again, and gave it him.

I observed the Impression it made on him upon reading it, he wept, this concern affected me so extremely, that I was almost ready to give him up the other letter which I had, but my passion which I concealed and disguised under the name of concern for Lord Bruce's welfare, prevented my doing it. I took care to suppress every one of your letters, and gave him only those of his friend. When we got to Francfort I was seized with



I a violent fever which lasted some time. I was several times in a good deal of danger, my ravings when light-headed, would undoubtedly have made a discovery of my sex, if he had attended to them, and I verily believe he would have been ignorant of it till this time, had not my nurse betrayed me, and she made a merit of keeping our secret. As I grew better, my lord's visits were shorter, and less frequent, this gave me much concern, but I did not dare to complain, any otherwise than by the satisfaction that I constantly expressed upon seeing him.

A few days after I had left my room, he sent word to me to desire my company in his apartment. I must own I was greatly solicitous about the event of this conference, but how great was my surprize on hearing him declare that as he knew who I was, it was, absolutely necessary

necessary that we should part. I made many remonstrances to this proposal, but he told me if I did not consent, he would clap me into some convent. After a good deal of intreaty, I prevailed upon him at length to let me stay at Francfort.

That night after I was in bed, I had a kind of a fainting fit, which brought Lord Bruce to my assistance, he had taken hold of my arm in order to feel my pulse, I held fast his hand when he was going to draw it away, and pressed him so tenderly, that I could not help weeping, my tears affected him more sensibly than they had ever done before, in short madam he forgot his duty to you, and indeed how could he resist so tempting an opportunity, more especially, when he found himself exceedingly beloved.

At

At the end of a few months I discovered myself to be big with child, which was so far from giving me uneasiness, that it increased my satisfaction. Lord Bruce on the contrary did not seem at all pleased. Perhaps my situation put him continually in mind of the duty he owed both you and me. He could never forget that he was indebted to me for his life, and this consideration in all probability induced him not to forsake me. In a little while afterwards I put on my natural dress, and had the honour to pass for my lord's wife. As this was much to my credit, you may be sure I did not contradict it; and my lord who went out but very seldom knew nothing of the matter. The retired manner in which we lived, made people suspect that my lord was of a jealous turn of mind, my behaviour did not fail to confirm their suspicions. His melancholy which  
increased.

increased daily, made him seek out the most retired places to walk in, whither I usually went in quest of him, but did not dare to disturb him, for fear of drawing on myself those reproaches, which sometimes he could not forbear venting. One Sunday, that notwithstanding my illness, I went to church, I perceived Lord Bruce unusually thoughtful, I endeavoured to divert his attention, but he made me no reply, and went out first. Happening to meet with an acquaintance in the street, I was prevented from following him. When I came home I found that he had not come thither, I sent every where that I thought it likely he might have gone, but a whole day and night passed without my hearing any thing of him. Alas, the very remembrance of it pains me, even at this distant period of time. On the morrow, a woman who I had never seen before, put



put a letter into my hands, the contents of which were as follows.

“The remorse that I have felt ever since my acquaintance with you, even at the time in which I was most guilty, has obliged me to forsake you. The misery to which I have exposed you, is a farther aggravation of that guilt; had I, as it was my duty to have done, informed you of my being pre-engaged, I doubt not but you would have got the better of your fatal passion. Farewel for ever, I am going into some retired corner of the world, where the remembrance of my crime will make my misery equal to my deserts.”

C H A P.

CHAP. XIII.

*Is the last, and if the author's word  
may be taken for it, the best.*

**T**HIS woman whom I had considered at first in the odious light of a rival, now became the object of my tenderness and compassion. I bewailed her misfortunes, excused her weakness, and in short began to feel a sincere friendship for her, and how could I avoid it, every particular of her story seemed a full confirmation of Lord Bruce's sincerity towards me. I ordered the unhappy infant to be brought home to my house. The tenderness I felt for the father, turned out to the child's advantage. Nor did I feel the least scruple, the motives of common humanity were a sufficient excuse for what I had done. The sick woman desired me to take away the child,  
here,

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here, said she to it as she embraced it, are the last tokens you will ever receive of my tenderness, may it thou be happier than thy father, and when thou knowest my dismal story, remember that misery is the never failing attendant of a deviation from virtue.

The singularity of this incident, and the pleasure resulting from having been assured by my rival of lord Bruce's constancy, the sight of a woman who was dying for grief of having been forsaken, and who had only been so forsaken on my account, caused emotions which it is impossible to describe. Miss Byron to whom I gave a faithful account of what had happened, perceived notwithstanding my outward appearance of concern, a secret satisfaction in the assurance of Lord Bruce's fidelity. This, said she, is your misfortune, and the consideration of your duty will

will work but very feebly when put in opposition to such sentiments as these. But you ought to guard against them with the utmost vigilance, perhaps my Lord Bruce may come over here again and endeavour to find you out. Alas, replied I, I shall never have an opportunity of avoiding him, he will have met the fate which he is so industriously gone in quest of, and you are willing to deprive me of the only comfort I have remaining, I mean the bewailing him.

Miss Byron who was a good deal affected with my distress, advised me to go to my husband, as the best remedy she knew of. Though it was solely against my inclination, I complied with her request. My late anxiety had produced such a change in me, that my husband thought me ill, and redoubled his usual care and tenderness which made me still worse. I experienced at this time, what I  
had



had already felt in the beginning of our marriage, namely, that there is no situation more perplexing or distressful than that of self discontent.

My rival's death, which happened a few days afterwards, was a fresh addition to my concern; and yet why alas did I bewail her loss, inasmuch as she was freed from the misfortune of not being beloved, whereas my duty constrained me to be insensible of that pleasure. Whenever I was alone with my husband, I found it equally impossible either to conceal my anxiety, or to hide my embarrassment whenever he inquired into the cause of my concern. After having spent several months in this manner, during which time the only comfort that I had, was the visiting Lord Bruce's little child very frequently, I was informed one morning, that my husband had sat out by break of day, for

for a country seat of his in Devonshire.

This sudden departure of his, of which he had not given me the least intimation, should have caused some concern, but as he had no great share either of my affections or attention at that time, it did not affect me much, insomuch that I easily believed what was told me, that he had been obliged to set out immediately on some urgent business. However, as ten days elapsed without my hearing any thing from him, I began to think that I was in some sort to blame. Miss Byron approved of the resolution I had taken to go to him. I found him on my coming thither, confined to his bed by a fever, it was so slight that it needed not have alarmed me, which however, it did, from a persuasion that in some measure, I was the cause of his illness. Instead  
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of his former assiduity, he put on a cold indifference, and upon my going to embrace him, forbear, said he, to use so much constraint with yourself, or rather so much artifice to deceive me, but I am no longer your dupe.

Do not, added he, desire an explanation which would be useless, and attended with disgrace to us both. No, no, said I, you must either tell me my crime, or give me back your esteem. You would never have lost it, replied he, had you been so sincere as I desired you, I should then have been so far from reproaching you for your weakness, that I should have used my utmost endeavours to have made you forget them. But you did not think me capable of being entrusted, nor did you take even those precautions which were absolutely necessary to insure your success.

I was so astonished and affected at what I had heard, that my husband had time to say all that his resentment prompted him to give vent to, before I was able to make any reply. I was, however, very far from thinking myself suspected of being the mother of Lord Bruce's child.

What I felt when I came to hear it, is impossible to describe. All the misfortunes I had hitherto experienced were trifling in comparison. My tears were for some time the only defence I made use of. What then said I, in a tone of voice which expressed both my surprize and indignation, do you reduce me to the necessity of justifying myself. The minister of our parish will inform you how I became acquainted with the child. Will he inform me too, replied he, with a malicious smile, how he happens to be so like your lover?



lover? I ought to acknowledge no one under that title, ever since my duty restrained my affection; however, I do not desire you to take my word, when the matter is clear'd up, I am sure you will be sorry for having given me so much concern. There is a certain force in truth which cannot be withstood, notwithstanding my husband was so prejudiced against me yet what I had said made a good deal of impression. Pray, said he, let us put an end to this disagreeable conversation; he immediately rung his bell, and on his servant's coming in, told me he wanted to be quiet, and desired me to retire to the apartment that was allotted me.

His fever increased considerably that night, and on the fifth day after my arrival was so violent, that they began to despair of his life. My husband knew his own situation better than the physicians, and therefore put

on

on a composition, which at once astonished and affected me, as I was convinced it was the result of a wounded spirit. I reproached myself for having concealed from him the last incident that had befallen me, and this caused a continual melancholy which I was obliged to hide from my husband for fear it should aggravate his distemper. I had retired into a closet adjoining to his apartment, when I word was brought me that he desired to speak to me. *Death,* said he, *is soon going to separate us, which was what I myself should never have been able to put into execution.* *Alas,* said I, *shedding a flood of tears, is it possible that I am so soon become the object of your hatred? it is from quite a contrary motive that I ought to have freed you from the restraint of living with a husband whom you found yourself unable to love.* My present situation

situation ought to be considered as a pledge of my affection. I would freely resign up my own life, provided it were attended with the preservation of yours. And of what use would that be to me? my future life would be a continued series of misfortunes. My fatal curiosity took from me the pleasing deceit, I observed your tenderness for the child, and that proved a sufficient ground for my suspicions; and even supposing I could justify you to my own mind, as I should be wholly divided between love and jealousy, I might, in time, become what I have always been apprehensive of, your tyrant instead of your husband. Farewel, continued he, I perceive my end at hand. He then turned himself in his bed, and in a very little while after his senses were entirely lost, and he died that very night.

There are certain misfortunes which bring along with them a kind of

of soothing comfort, but in order to that the object lamented must have been beloved, and the misfortune must have happened without our having contributed towards it in the least. But I alas was in a very different situation from this. The more I reflected on my loss the more reason I found to blame my own behaviour. I thought indeed of Lord Bruce, but it was only to strengthen the resolution I had taken of renouncing him for ever. I went usually every day into a wood adjoining to our house, and there unbossomed the oppressive load of my grief, and sometimes I used to spend the whole day there. It was in vain that my servants forewarned me of the danger to which I exposed myself. The examples they quoted of those who had been robbed and murdered there made little or no impression on me. As indeed why should they, for what had I to lose?

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a miserable life which I longed to be deprived of.

I had stayed one evening in the wood much later than ordinary. In the midst of my melancholy reflections I found myself all of a sudden seized hold of by a man who was endeavouring to carry me away, when another starting out of the same place came up to him sword in hand; I took the advantage of their skirmish to get as far off from them as I could, and my shrieks soon brought out my servants who ran to the rescue of my defender; as to myself I was so ill that I was obliged to be put to bed as soon as I came in.

In a few days afterwards I was informed that my defender had wounded his adversary, and had killed another man that had come to his assistance but had received a wound himself, and that upon this some people at a distance who were waiting with

a post-chaise and horses had drove off with the utmost speed. I ordered my defender to be brought home, and sent for a Surgeon. My valet partly through humanity, and partly through a desire of getting some insight into this affair brought the wounded man along with him, and this afterwards proved a very useful precaution.

This man being at the point of death, owned to my valet, that my father in law was the sole cause of this violent attempt, that he had designed to carry me to his country seat, and there oblige me by force of threats to give the greater part of my fortune to my brother; but that I had now no farther reason to be under any apprehensions, for that he was the man who had been killed by my defender. This account increased my gratitude to my deliverer in proportion to the danger I had been in. I was therefore very uneasy about his welfare. My

servants concealed from me the dangerous condition he was in, the surgeons had told him that he could not possibly live above twenty-four hours. A man (whom they imagined to be his valet) came to him in the night, as soon as he saw him he desired to be left alone with him.

It was not till the next day that I was made acquainted with this melancholy account, and in a few hours after word was brought me that he was at the point of death. I was shocked at this intelligence, when the man who had sat up with him desired to see me. He was accordingly introduced, and held out a letter to me. I had scarce looked on him with attention, but I fainted away, and did not come to myself till some time afterwards.

As soon as I was able to speak, I desired to see the man again, who accordingly

cordingly came and put the letter into my hands, the contents of which were as follows:

Will you deign Madam to own a man whom you ought to look on as the most guilty and basest of men.

Alas, I have passed a more severe sentence on myself than you perhaps would have done had it been left to your determination. I thought myself wholly unworthy of bringing you this acknowledgement myself. By that time you receive this it shall be no more. If you should ever remember the unfortunate *Butcher*, remember at the same time how sincerely he repented.

My tears prevented me from being able to read the letter directly. Wilson, for that was the name of his faithful servant mingled his tears with mine. He was now become in a manner necessary to me. I spent whole days



days in talking to him of Lord Bruce, and made him relate the several incidents that had happened over and over again. He informed me that he went to his master at Frankfort, and that finding him oppressed with a deep melancholy, he had presumed to enquire into the reasons of it, which, after much entreaty, he had condescended to give him.

He then gave me an account of what I had already heard from the gaoler's daughter, he added that Lord Bruce had seen me at church, that at first he was very far from thinking it was me, but the resemblance had so struck him, that he could no longer bear to see his mistress, and that he had sent him, viz. Wilson, in quest of me. Accordingly he made enquiries where I had lodged, which confirmed his suspicions, and this increased his confusion and despair to such a height, that he

had

had like to have laid violent hands upon himself, he determined at last to follow me, that upon coming into England he had heard of the death of my husband, and of the extreme concern that I shewed at his loss, that he had taken a lodging in a house adjoining to the wood that he had seen me several times indulging my grief, and that he was just coming towards me to throw himself at my feet and to implore my pardon, when he heard my shrieks.

This account went to my very soul and yet this was the only thing that I was capable of attending to. Lord Bruce's body was put into a leaden coffin by my order, and I used to go daily and water it with my tears. I fed my grief with the hopes that one day or other we should be interred in the same grave. I should still have continued this melancholy employment, had not Colonel M— intreated me

me to quit the place, but all his intreaties would have been ineffectual, had not the desire of seeing that child, who was become much more dear to me by his father's death, called me to London. I found on my coming thither, that the Duke of C—'s death was already forgotten. This family had given out that he died of an apoplexy in the country.

My misfortunes have furnish'd me with a sufficient fund for meditation in my retirement. Time has, indeed, abated the poignancy of my grief, but a deep melancholy still remains: The education of the unhappy infant is the only relief I have. I have thought it my duty not to acquaint him with his condition, nor does he so much as know who is his benefactor, chusing rather to forego his gratitude, than to give him the mortification of knowing himself.

F I N I S.